

Saturday September 21 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Hong Kong, Oman, Pakistan, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,664

With Simon Hoggart, Joanna Coles, Jeremy Hardy

Michael Billington on Pinter's new play

the week

Mark Lawson: why I chose sex over celibacy



Poet of Darkness



Cardinal describes nightmare Catholics dreaded for years Betrayed by the bishop

Greens brave disaster at polls

Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

THE leaders of Britain's four million Catholics said last night that they felt betrayed and duped by the Bishop of Argyll who three years ago lied and gave "cast-iron" guarantees that rumours about sexual misdemeanours were unfounded.



The Pope, who accepted the Bishop of Argyll's resignation on Thursday, spoke of family values in Sainte Anne d'Auray, France, yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIPPE WOLAZIER

Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scotland's 750,000 Catholics, described the last 10 days as a nightmare he had been dreading for years. "I weep for the mother and child and the way in which they have been treated, but I have been so duped by the events of the last few days that I don't know what to believe any more. I feel as betrayed as anybody in all of this, and I know what the people are feeling because I am feeling the same."

more to help women in her position: "What I think would be far more sensible was if the Catholic Church, as it has already acknowledged the difficulties, would be pro-active and set up its own telephone line for women who have children by priests to telephone them and tell them their details. And, I am sure, the Church will want to take care and take responsibility for these women."

had assured him last Sunday that not a penny of diocesan money had been paid towards the child's upkeep. "He was very honest about finances of the diocese and he left prominent financial statements. I had no reason to doubt his word."

bishop disappeared because of a woman, she thought it was her. In their last conversation, the bishop had promised to come and live with her and their son, Kevin. "He is a very kind and honourable man. But he does have the ability to compartmentalise sections of his life," she told an acquaintance who did not wish to be named.

ers said they were puzzled at how the bishop's secret had survived the "very, very strict" scrutiny process undertaken by the Papal Nuncio before his appointment as a bishop. Bishop Wright is now said to be full of remorse that he undertook the office.

Iris Murdoch fears writer's block means she will never write another novel

Joanna Coles

DAME Iris Murdoch, one of the best and most prolific writers of her generation, is suffering severely from writer's block and fears she may never write again. The 77-year-old author, who won the Booker Prize in 1978 for The Sea, The Sea, said yesterday that she was in a "very, very bad, quiet place".



Iris Murdoch with her husband John Bayley

find anything to help me," she said. "I find I haven't got anything at the moment, and this is really rather startling to me. "I feel as though maybe the whole thing has packed up. But I hope, I really do believe actually, I could get on and find myself in a happier state, but I don't think so at the very moment. I'm just wandering. I think of things and then they go away forever."

Yeltsin may not be able to stand major heart surgery

David Hearst in Moscow

THE head of the Kremlin medical team, Sergei Moronov, expressed foreboding for the first time in public yesterday about the health of Russian president Boris Yeltsin, to withstand major heart surgery. The condition of Mr Yeltsin's kidneys, liver and other vital organs substantially increased the risks of his forthcoming heart bypass operation, it was admitted. Dr Moronov said that, as a result, the operation had become "a big and very serious one".

passing it off as "a cold" or "colossal weariness" the Kremlin yesterday dropped the posture that the 65-year-old president was still actively running the country. It was announced that Mr Yeltsin would stay in the Central Clinic in Moscow next week, the third time his stay has been extended. Dr Moronov told a televised press conference: "All of us during our lives acquire quite a lot of different problems with our organs and we must be absolutely sure of preserving their functions."

full heart transplant on the president. As for a bypass, in which the function of the heart has to be temporarily stopped, the surgeon said there were two main risks: the possibility that doctors could not get the heart beating again, and the problems caused by the life support machine to the functions of the kidneys, liver and lungs and to the blood supply to the brain. He said: "When the aim of the operation is the aspiration to preserve 100 per cent of a man and, in this case, the president of the country, the surgeon's team must be prepared for any development — including transplantation of the heart. It's obvious you stop the heart, and what if you can't get it going again?"

Inside

Britain Labour plans to replace post-16 benefit with a means tested education allowance roused fierce condemnation from all sides.

World News Bulgaria's UN ambassador should resign after he voiced criticism of his government, the foreign ministry said in Sofia.

Finance Top City firms are braced for criticism of their role in the controversial sale of £250 million of shares in Robert Maxwell's company.

Sport The return of Tour de France hero Miguel Indurain turned sour on yesterday's 13th stage when he gave up in mid-race.

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 7; Weather 2 The Week Crossword 24; Arts 18; Sport 20

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EU tells Britain beef ban stays

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Ian Traynor in Bonn

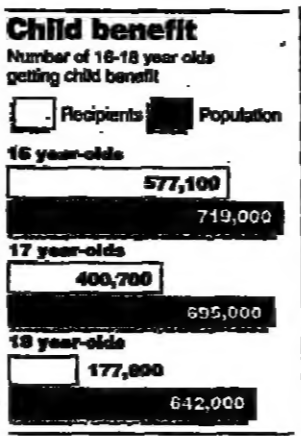
THE European Commission responded to the Government's decision to halt the cull of 147,000 cows by warning yesterday that the ban on the export of British beef could stay in place until BSE had been eradicated in Britain.

ing document from them which we can carefully check, then an end to the export ban is simply not a possibility." In Brussels, Klaus Van der Paal, the commission's senior spokesman, said: "If the UK government comes to the conclusion that the conditions [for lifting the ban] cannot be fulfilled then the beef ban cannot be lifted."

Labour plans to replace post-16 child benefit with education allowance

Michael White Political Editor

CHILD poverty groups last night joined fierce Tory and Liberal Democrat condemnation of Labour's £1 billion plan to replace child benefit for older teenagers with a means-tested education allowance, targeted at low and middle income families whose children currently drop out of school.



education secretary, David Blunkett, and Harriet Harman announce crucial details of the scheme — absent yesterday to the delight of Tory election planners who dubbed it "a new teenage tax".

Mr Brown will unveil the details of the education allowance in a speech to the House of Commons on Monday. He will also announce that the income level at which the allowance will be phased out will be raised from £10,000 to £12,000 a year.

child benefit, plus £400 million spent in Youth Training (YT) allowances in previous years towards the cost of major competitor countries, 40 per cent at 18 compared with 80 per cent in France and Germany.

Given the rule whereby universal child benefit — up to £20.80 a week — for children up to 16 is available only to those between 16 and 18 who stay at school, Mr Brown argued that up to 21,500 is going to well-off families while those in most need of skills for work have a positive disincentive to get them.

The Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, denounced the move as proof that Labour remained the tax and spend party determined to raid the pockets of 7 million parents who bring up 13 million children and need the tax-and-benefit system to recognise the cost of family.

'Oldest art' alters origins of man

Christopher Zahn in Sydney and Tim Radford

AUSTRALIAN scientists last night upset theories of human origins with the discovery of rock art which they said was at least twice as old as that in the caves of Lascaux, France.

It confirmed the discovery to be published in the British scientific journal Antiquity in December. The site is 50 miles north of the drawing bar.

Dr Tacou said the designs must have been made by humans and despite their primitive form were art. On one small surface alone more than 3,200 engravings were counted.

kind began in Africa. Homo erectus picked up a stone axe and set out to colonise the world 800,000 years ago. Homo sapiens — modern man — is a latecomer who emerged about 200,000 years ago in Africa.

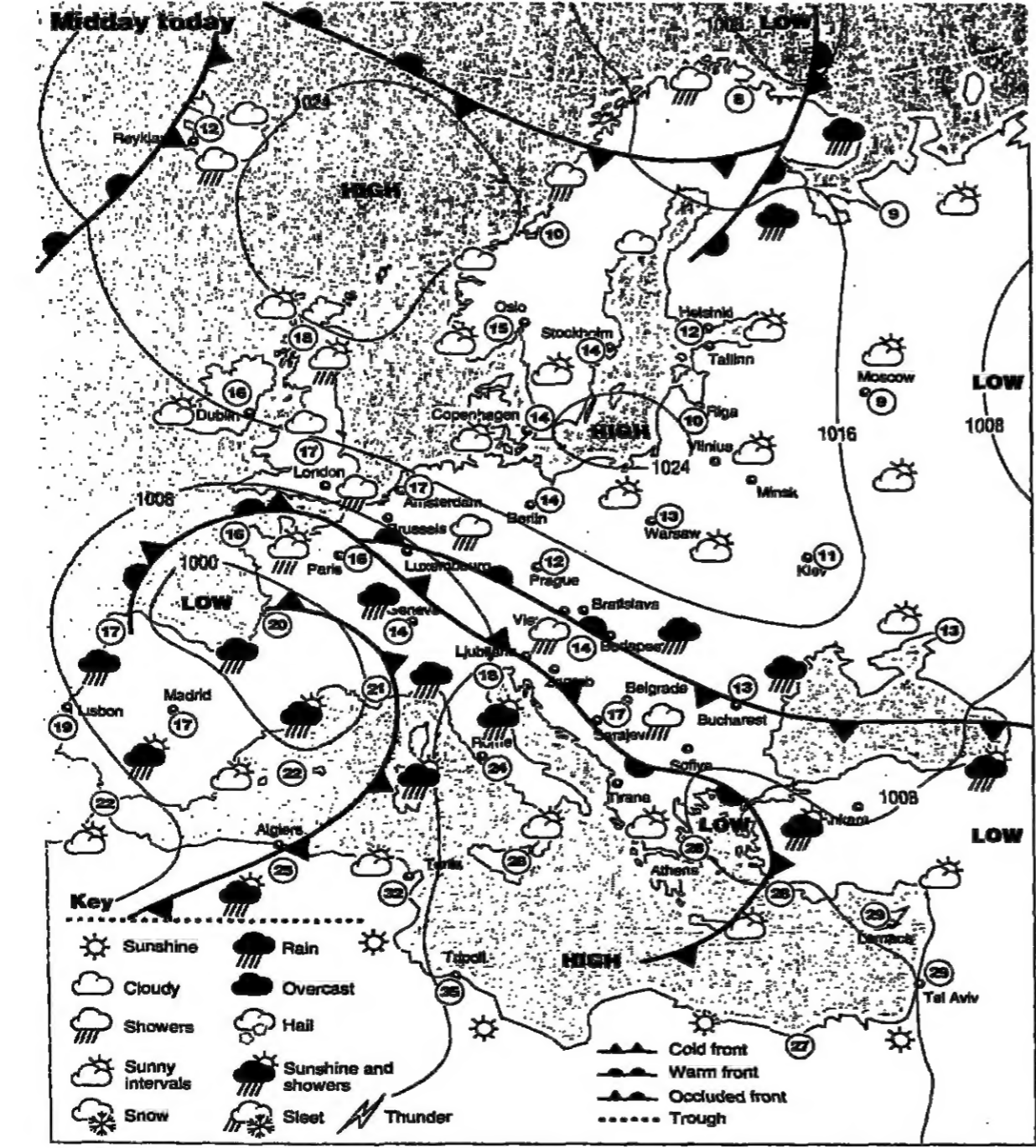
Yoga seeks student high flyers for new seat of learning

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

ACADEMIC high-flyers can now contemplate studying beneath a different set of dreaming spires — Mentmore Towers, home of a new Maharishi seat of learning.

Management and Technology, hopes the academic degrees will move as proof that Labour remained the tax and spend party determined to raid the pockets of 7 million parents who bring up 13 million children and need the tax-and-benefit system to recognise the cost of family.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions.

Around the world table listing weather forecasts for various global locations like London, New York, Tokyo, etc.

Television and radio — Saturday

Summary: 7:00 Weekend, 7:30 From the West... BBC 1: 8:00 News, 8:30 News, 9:00 News... BBC 2: 8:00 News, 8:30 News, 9:00 News... Sky Movies: 8:00 The Untouchables...

Television and radio — Sunday

Summary: 7:00 News, 7:30 News, 8:00 News... BBC 1: 8:00 News, 8:30 News, 9:00 News... BBC 2: 8:00 News, 8:30 News, 9:00 News... Sky Sports: 8:00 News...

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مكتبة الأصيل

st-16 child
wance



The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Roderick Wright, during his ordination at St Columba's Church, Oban, in January 1991, shortly after he became friends with Kathleen Macphee, the divorcee who disappeared with him two weeks ago

“These men behave quite despicably. The women usually get dumped”

What makes priests enter into relationships plagued by doubt? **Madeleine Bunting** meets women at the heart of the matter

CAROL has been in a relationship with a priest for 25 years. The Catholic Church knows nothing of it. Nor is it their business, retorts Carol roundly. "I don't lie. I just don't tell anyone. But it's not second best. There are a lot of women in the same situation, we enjoy what we have when we have it," says Carol [not her real name]. She has never talked publicly about her relationship but the coverage of the case of Bishop Wright incensed her and finally prompted her to break quarter of a century of silence. "I know at least half a dozen women who have been in a similar situation. Some of the priests behave very irresponsibly, and they are then backed up by the Church, which puts all the blame on the 'scarlet woman'. I know one priest who was having affairs with four women at the same time. The Church covers up for these men. It's because of the kind of education they get in seminaries. There are no women around and they don't learn how to relate to women decently." Carol believes the issue is not about sex but about the men's dishonourable behaviour, and how the Church lets them off the hook. "These are not scarlet women, they often go to priests for help when they are very vulnerable. These men are abusing them and failing to respect the individual. It's outrageous. "I know two or three monks in my area who are in relationships. They are bloody good at covering it up. Yet they were the first to criticise a priest who left the priesthood because of a relationship with a friend of mine. It's all so hypocritical. "My case is completely different. We were both adults and it was only 15-20 years ago that we began our sexual relationship after a long friendship. He works abroad so we see each other sporadically. I don't want him to leave the priesthood. He's

good at his job and I'm never going to be a cap-in-hand sort of wife. Besides I've seen other relationships with priests who've left the priesthood which later break up. The couple spend holidays together when he is in the country. His family know, and without saying anything, have implicitly accepted the relationship. Some of her friends know. "He's a very traditional sort of Catholic and his feelings for me came as a complete surprise to him. We



"I didn't want to rock the boat — we couldn't see the point. "I would like to speak out because I recognise the rights of women in the Church and I think the all-male hierarchy is very anti-women. But I can't, I would destroy something very special with my friend, and it would put him in an impossible position. "In the wake of the extraordinary revelations this week about Bishop Wright's resignation and 15-year-old son by Joanna Whibley, a string of women have come forward to describe their relationships with priests. Few are as happy as that of Carol. "There's an enormous difference between those women in an adult, equal relationship and those in an abusive power relationship," said Lara Winkley, of the Catholic Women's Network, who knows of at least 10 women in relationships with priests. "These men behave quite despicably. They go over the line in comforting women and the women then get doubly hurt. The priest makes promises about leaving the priesthood, and the women live in hope year after year. They are usually dumped in the end. "It's the convenience of the Church hierarchy in this kind of emotional abuse and irresponsibility towards the women and children which infuriates Seven Eleven, a support group for women having relationships with Catholic priests. When an affair is discovered by the hierarchy, the priest is often moved on to another parish,

forcibly separating the couple, and in the new parish he goes on to develop a new relationship.

"There are hundreds of women in relationships with priests," says Anne Edwards [not her real name] who is herself in a "on-off relationship" with a priest, and who set up Seven Eleven in 1983. "I have spoken to many women, and some have horrendous stories to tell. I only know of one woman who was well supported by her diocese when the relationship became known. In the vast majority of cases, the reaction has been negative and cruel — some women have been ridiculed when they went to their bishops for help."

Many of the relationships of which Ms Edwards hears are "abusive", where the priest is taking advantage of his role as a counsellor and of the vulnerability of the woman who is often seeking help because of a personal crisis. "Many priests are completely ill-equipped to deal with women. They might be 40 or 50, but emotionally they're adolescents. I know of women who were touched or kissed by priests when they went to them for help. If doctors or social workers abused their position in this way, there would be recourse to some kind of body and tribunal, but there's no channel at all to make these kind of complaints in the Catholic Church."

Despite Cardinal Basil Hume's insistence on Thursday that the Church had a responsibility towards the women and children involved in these illicit relationships, the arrangements for pastoral or financial support vary enormously. A woman in Birmingham who had a child by a priest, claims he has given £15 a week out of his own income but the diocese has given nothing. Ms Edwards says that many priests are unable or unwilling to provide



money — a priest's salary can be as low as £2,500 and rarely exceeds £5,000. In other cases, particularly with religious orders, considerable efforts are sometimes made. One nun involved with a priest was given free housing and an income to ensure that she did not reveal her relationship when her partner was sent abroad. What is more straightforward is how the Church

deals with the priest involved in the affair. Canon Law is clear that a priest who refuses to give up the relationship must be suspended immediately. Many women feel that ultimately the Church is primarily motivated by the desire to hush up any potential scandal.

Typically, priests, if they are repentant, will be moved to another parish or even out of the country. But it is unlikely that anyone in their future parish will know of the previous scandal — the Church does not keep a register of men who have broken their celibacy vows.

More problematic to the Church are the priests who decide they want to give up the priesthood and fulfil their responsibilities to the woman and possible children.

One of the first things Pope John Paul II did on becoming Pontiff was to tighten up the procedures for those wanting to be laicised. Now you have virtually to prove you should never have been ordained in the first place: it can take as long as six years.

"The problem is that if clergy do want to leave, they find the door shut in their faces — they can't," says Michael Walsh, a former priest and Catholic commentator. "It was much easier when I was a priest. Now laicisation is very slow and sometimes you can't get it at all. The effect has been to drive it all underground."

What has changed markedly in recent years is the response of parishioners, who are often remarkably generous and non-judgmental of priests in relationships. In the wake of the horrific child abuse scandals, the response of many parishioners is: "Thank God, it's a woman". It was noticeable early this week how charitable many parishioners and even Church spokesmen were towards Bishop Wright. There was much sympathy for the plight of a man who had fallen in love; there was even muttering from Church sources that Cardinal Thomas Winning had been a little severe on him. All that has changed.

The conclusion is that it is not the breaking of the celibacy vow which angers Catholics, but the irresponsibility of a man who can father and then ignore a child for 15 years and the false promises which have clearly caused Joanna Whibley so much suffering.

The historic change which is being curiously assisted by the scandal of individual cases such as that of Bishop Wright is an enormous shift of power within the Catholic Church from the ordained priesthood to the laity.

For 1,500 years, priests have been a caste set apart from the laity; celibacy was the most obvious sign of their superiority. This status enabled the all-male hierarchy to build up power over the masses and exert influence in political and economic spheres.

"The notion of the caste has been eroded and priests are suffering from a loss of status. That is partly due to the lack of interest in religion of a secular society and they are no longer looked to as the arbiters of the community. It is partly because they are no longer likely to be better educated than people in their congregations," says Mr Walsh.

John Challoner, of Catholics for a Changing Church, believes the consequences could be revolutionary. "All these issues of clerical misdemeanours will help destroy the credibility of the struc-

tures. The hierarchy is disintegrating like an old house and all the rats are running out. It is destroying itself as the scandals show up the need for change. From the 4th to the 20th century, the hierarchical nature of the Church has been an aberration, now we're going back to the beginning where the priest is no more than the chairperson chosen by the community of believers."

The reforms of Vatican Council II in the early sixties posed a new vision of the Church. Instead of an institution directed by an all-male hierarchy of priests, the

Church was the people of God in which lay and ordained were equal, points out Fr Brendan Callaghan, principal of Heythrop Theological College.

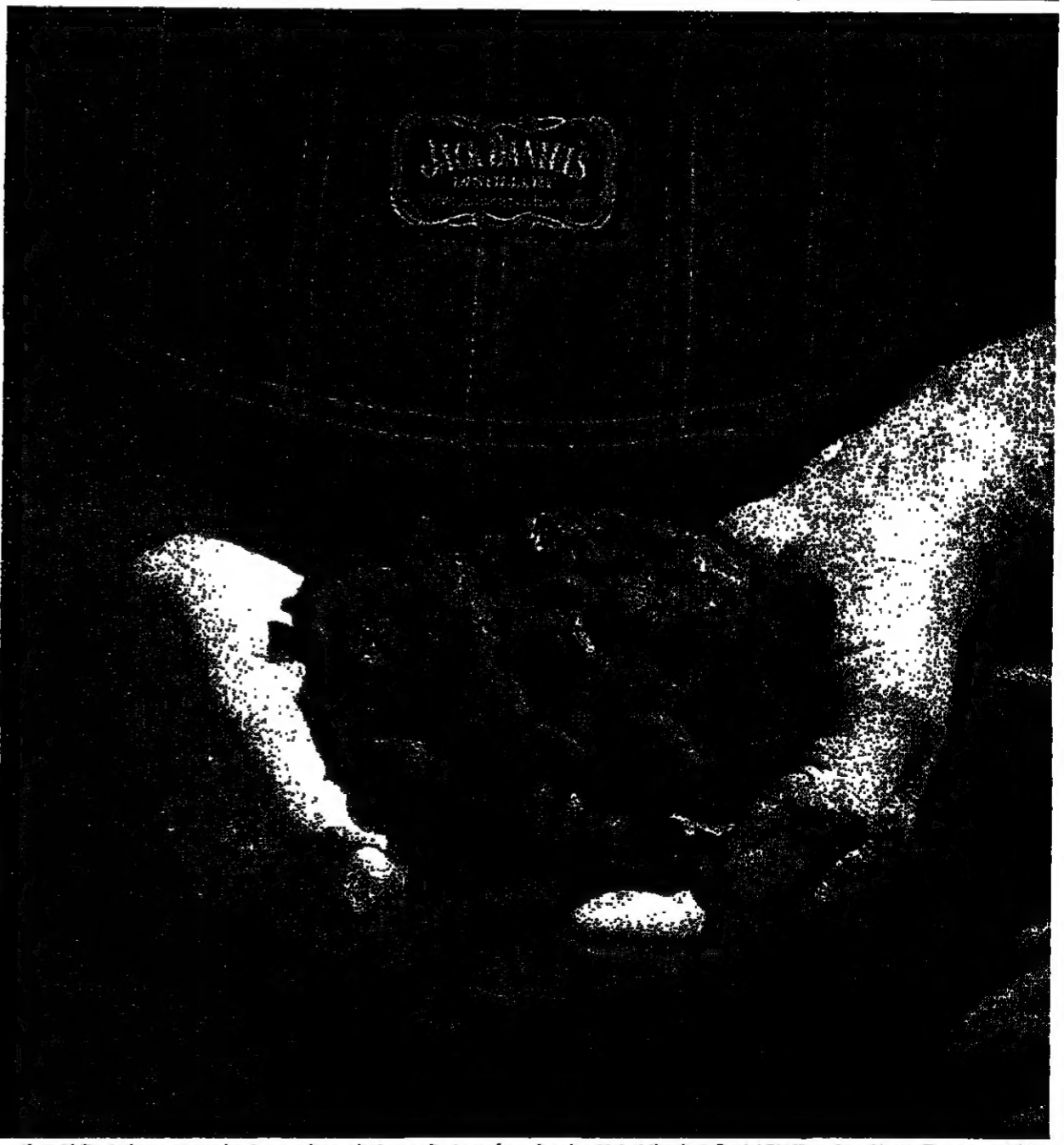
The traditional reverence for the priest as the fount of all authority is disappearing as lay people take on more autonomy, and see their priest as a fallible human being. There is a difficult transition period when the priest has to fulfill both sets of expectations, and it is clear some priests find their task confusing and difficult.

Fr Callaghan said: "People place priests on pedestals and

they get hugely upset when they fall off them as in the current scandal — people feel violated. But too much is expected of priests; people want them to be both human and superhuman. They must be affable, approachable but also with no evidence of human weakness. Most priests now feel overburdened by the enormous demands made on them.

"The only good thing that this scandal can do is make people rethink their expectations of priests."

Additional reporting by Joanna Moorhead.



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To put it simply, he is exploring the apparent link between sexual and political fascism and the way one echoes, or sometimes even contradicts, the other.
Michael Billington on the latest Pinter
The Week page 19

Peter Hetherington reports on an equine celebration turned sour

Borders pageant puts town's prejudice on parade

AS AN historical pageant it is hard to beat: every year hundreds of horsemen gallop around the boundaries of the ancient burgh before parading through its centre to commemorate a 16th-century victory over marauding Englishmen.

But when Mandy Graham and Ashley Simpson joined the traditional celebration — after defeating legal moves to ban them from accompanying the men — all hell broke loose in Hawick.

Supporters and opponents of the women clashed angrily, amid cries of "scum", "tarts" and much worse from those backing male domination of the festivities, known as the Common Riding.

Three months on, cries of "no surrender" fill the air as old personal animosities emerge with a vengeance and traditionalists regroup to defend long-standing conventions.

The women, along with two other female riders — Gill Dickie and Denise Fairman — have responded by lodging a complaint of sexual discrimination with the Equal Opportunities Commission, on the grounds that the Common Riding Committee failed to compromise after an earlier court ruling.

Divisions are widening in the old textile town of 15,000, centre of the Scottish Borders woollen industry. Some community leaders, including a



Mandy Graham, whose participation in Hawick's traditional Common Riding celebration has thrown the town into turmoil PHOTOGRAPH: TED DITCHBURN

Church of Scotland clergyman and the local newspaper editor, have been warned to leave town or have received threatening letters. Councilors are ostracised, families have been divided, longstanding friendships broken and shops boycotted, as insults are traded in the street or over garden fences. The mood is ugly.

"I cannot believe the hatred and bigotry I have seen in the place where I've grown up," said councillor John Scott, a target of abuse. "It has made me feel sick."

What began as an apparently trivial argument over limited female participation provoked yet more belligerence this week at a noisy 600-strong meeting behind locked doors in the town hall of a new organisation, the Customs and Traditions Association, dedicated to preserving the status quo.

The anger was palpable as the Guardian attempted to gain admission, by paying a £1 membership fee, before being shown the door. "How did you find out about this?" snarled a woman later, jabbing an accusing finger.

On the steps of the town hall Henry Wear, whose nephew was at the head of this year's celebrations as the Cornet — the principal rider elected by a 30-strong committee — could not hide his disgust. "You're even frightened to talk to your neighbour," he complained. "All this because of two women hell-bent on de-

stroying something which has been going on for hundreds of years. They've just come out of the woodwork all of a sudden to cause trouble."

Later the association produced a statement accusing the women riders of trying to "crucify" the Cornet by threatening action through the EOC.

But in another town hall room, a small reconciliation committee was meeting in the hope of bringing both sides together. Mandy, aged 21, and Ashley, 23, had entered hurriedly, as only a few weeks

ago Ashley, a factory worker, had drinks thrown over her in a pub.

Although Mandy, a textile worker, well remembers a neighbour yelling "scum", what annoys the women's supporters, who have formed their own association under the guidance of former Scottish rugby union international Norman Fender, is that "lady riders" were allowed to take part earlier this century.

But in 1931 after a Miss Murgatroyd broke her leg when she was thrown from her horse, men complained that the presence of ladies "retarded the progress of riders", and a committee promptly prohibited them.

Mandy said it has long been her ambition to take part in the event.

Like her friends, she is a skilled horsewoman. "It is our heritage, our history, as much as any man's," she insisted.

A legal attempt to prevent women taking part in one of this year's rides failed — and the town was soon in turmoil — when a sheriff rejected an application for an interdict

'All this because of two women hell-bent on destroying something that's been going on for hundreds of years'
Hawick resident

'I cannot believe the hatred and bigotry in the place where I've grown up. It has made me feel sick'
Cllr John Scott

'It is our heritage, our history, as much as any man's'
Mandy Graham

'I was being threatened'
Journalist

Dissident diplomat told to...

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DIGI...
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THOMSON
Faraway Shores
180 STO...

A little radiation 'is good for you'

BNFL disowns safety chief's backing for low-level doses

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

DAILY doses of radiation are good for people and one day they might be required to promote health, an executive responsible for health and safety with British Nuclear Fuels has claimed.

John Graham, vice-president of BNFL's US subsidiary, was disowned by the company, who said his views did not accord with its policy.

Mr Graham gave a paper on the benefits of radiation to the Uranium Institute's annual meeting in London where he

ceptible to massive stress. Similarly the body could adapt to ionising radiation.

His remarks were reported in Professional Engineering, alongside comments from Morris Rosen, adviser on environmental affairs to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna who said that evacuating so many people from the area around Chernobyl was an over-reaction. It had caused a deterioration in their quality of life.

He added that the radiation levels that people were allowed to receive from nuclear installations were far too stringent and should be relaxed.

His remarks are part of a debate in the industry about acceptable risks and fixing maximum doses for workers.

A BNFL spokesman said Mr Graham had made it clear that he was speaking in a personal capacity as immediate past-president of the Ameri-

can Nuclear Society and not for the company. "We disassociate ourselves from his remarks. We stick to the rules laid down by the National Radiological Protection Board."

The board's view is that all radiation is potentially a cause of cancer, however small the dose.

"There is no threshold dose below which the risk of tumour-induction would be zero," said Professor Roger Clarke, the chairman of the board which is the Government's official watchdog on human exposure to radiation.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said Mr Graham's statement was astonishing. A spokesman, Eddie Goncalves, said: "This sounds like the ravings of a crackpot. John Graham should say this to the relatives of the known victims of the nuclear age, including the children of Chernobyl and nuclear test veterans."

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Aggressive TV interviewers 'are moral delinquents'

Martin Walkwright

ROUTINELY aggressive television interviewing was condemned as a danger to democracy yesterday by one of Britain's senior moral philosophers.

Barrister Warnock, former mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, and a specialist in ethics, described the indiscriminate use of "hectoring and bullying" as a betrayal of the subtle and effective use of courteous dialogue to expose the truth.

She referred to the "moral delinquency" of TV interviewers who adopted a standard tone when questioning anyone entrusted with power.

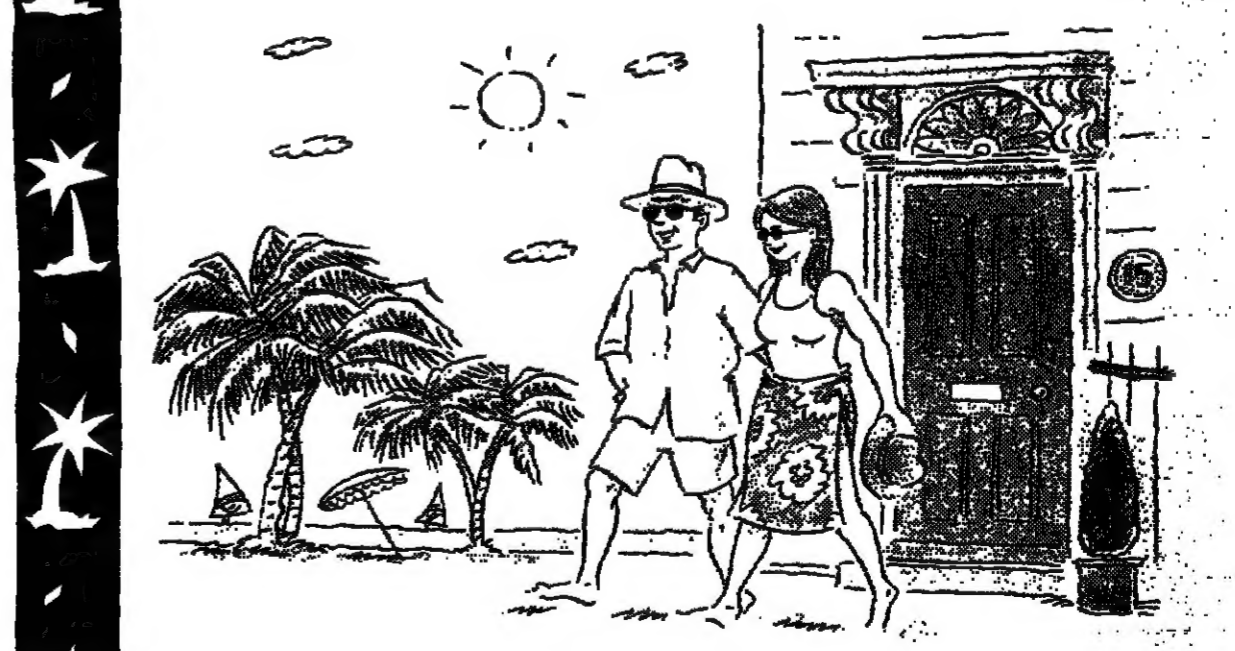
Her comments follow renewed protests from politicians about alleged rough treatment by broadcasters.

The tone is best described as "expose, humiliate and belittle," not only sabotaged effective and welcome criticism of politicians, but also had an insidious effect on the health of democratic life.

Lady Warnock said she was a self-satisfaction on the part of the interviewer, she told a media ethics conference at Leeds University. "An attitude of 'Anyone can see through this charlatan but only I have the guts to expose him.'"

Whether the subject was clever and subtle or a fool and a knave, the approach was

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مكتبة النجف

Dissident diplomat is told to go

Mark Tran in New York

THE Bulgarian foreign ministry suggested yesterday that the country's ambassador to the United Nations should resign after he accused his government of deliberately plunging the country into economic crisis "to enslave millions of Bulgarian citizens".

The ghost of communism is looming over Bulgaria

"His conduct is worthy of pity, and is another attempt to discredit Bulgaria before the international community."

Instead, for the second year running, the government has humiliated Mr Pashovski by excluding him from its official delegation to the General Assembly.

Balkans and over Europe," Mr Pashovski warned. The ambassador also hinted that his government was reverting to its cold war cloak-and-dagger tactics against dissidents. He related a "strange accident" last year when he said New York police confirmed that connectors to his car steering wheel had been deliberately severed.

In a notorious incident, Bulgarian agents killed a dissident working at the BBC World Service in London in 1978 with a poisoned umbrella. "Let us start a dialogue on this matter and put an end to the 'Bulgarian umbrella' once and for all," Mr Pashovski said.

In his open letter to the prime minister, Mr Videnov, and the foreign minister, Georgi Pirinski, he accused Mr Videnov and his government — elected in January 1995 — of trying to monopolise power by sidelining the constitution and usurping foreign policy.

Because of its irresponsible economic policy, Mr Pashovski said, Bulgaria lagged behind other former Warsaw Pact countries, including Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland. Minimal democratic reforms introduced by the former prime minister Filip Dimitrov were killed at birth, he claimed.



Italians pose in front of the Colosseum in Rome on the new Piaggio Vespa. The Vespa, the much-loved motor scooter which did for transport in post-war Italy what the Model-T Ford car did for the United States, celebrated its 50th birthday yesterday with sleeker contours but some retro features reintroduced.

Convicted Italian terrorist decides to hit the books

John Hooper in Rome

BRITISH teachers with problem children in their care should take heart from the predicament facing an Italian headmaster, Cesare Quarenghi of the Lussana school in Bergamo, has in his charge a pupil who is a convicted terrorist awaiting trial for masterminding a jail break.

Other pupils seem unconcerned, but some parents are worried, and one has already said he plans to remove his son from the school. This reaction is, perhaps, understandable. In the early 1980s, Tucciarelli was sentenced to six years for terrorist activities. While in prison, he was tried and acquitted of the murder of a fellow-inmate. Last year he fell foul of the law once again when he was arrested and charged with helping Felice Maniero, a gangster from the Venice area, to escape from prison.

Pope embraces even divorcees

Alex Duvall Smith in Sainte Anne-d'Auray

FAMILY values — but not those of the Roman Catholic clergy — were at the centre of the Pope's message yesterday in an area which first heard of Christ 1,400 years ago from married priests and women deacons.

their feet feeling like icicles after four hours of standing in a misty field beneath a gigantic deserted podium. Long before the papal helicopter was sighted at about 10am, nature had provided a stunning curtain-raiser: as pilgrims filled the field, the sunrise behind the 19th-century basilica cleared the mist. When the Pope arrived through, the pilgrims waved

would be considered a breach of secular practice to give children the day off school for a papal visit. But Brittany — opposed to centralism — has a high number of Roman Catholic private schools. The Pope, who looked weak as he slowly read his 25-minute homily in French, called on the faithful to combat a "developing climate of indifference and individualism".

He condemned abortion, saying: "You are invited to show the world the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood. Every conceived human being has the right to exist, because the life which is given does not belong to those who have given birth to it."

Nowhere else in France would children get the day off school for a papal visit

scaves — orange, yellow, blue or white depending on their diocese — as an organ augmented by Breton bagpipes played a French hymn.

Twelve bishops and 1,200 priests took their places for a two-and-a-half-hour mass, during which the Pope said a prayer in Breton and delivered the Creed in Latin.

and praised Brittany's "solid Christian tradition". Sainte Anne-d'Auray, a town of 1,600 people, was the scene, in the 17th century, of apparitions by Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary. But the southern coast of Brittany owes its devout tradition to Welsh monks, who introduced Christianity in the fifth and sixth centuries.

He added that the Church was "also concerned with those who are separated, divorced, and divorced and remarried; they remain members of the Christian community".

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PEOPLES

World news in brief

Bosnian Muslim election turnout 'over 100pc'

AN INDEPENDENT pressure group monitoring Bosnia's elections said yesterday the turnout for last Saturday's poll had been suspiciously high, writes Julian borger in Sarajevo. It was over 100 per cent in the case of the Muslim vote, raising the possibility of large-scale fraud.

But the Washington-based International Crisis Group (ICG) said that once the figures were adjusted for spoiled ballots and refugees who were eligible but did not vote, the "alarmingly" adjusted turnout among Serbs was 96.5 per cent, and among Muslims 103.1 per cent.

Guatemalan peace accord

Guatemalan guerrilla leaders shook hands with army officers after signing a military agreement aimed at ending Central America's last and longest war.

Cash bonanza

Libya has started handing out \$6,000 (£3,000) in cash to needy families as part of a promise by Col Muammar Gaddafi to share the country's \$10 billion-a-year oil revenues with citizens. — AP.

Gunmen to die

An Ethiopian court sentenced three Egyptians to death yesterday for attempting to kill Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak last year. — Reuters.

Election victory

Estonia's President Lennart Meri was re-elected yesterday after five rounds of voting in the Baltic state. — AP.

Monkey business

A monkey mauled and killed a zookeeper who was fixing loose railings on its cage in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. — Reuters.

Diary 'admits Unabombing'

THEODORE KACZYNSKI kept a journal in which he admits responsibility for 16 of the bombings attributed to the shadowy, anti-technology terrorist known as the Unabomber, prosecutors said yesterday.

Mr Kaczynski had written: "I mailed that bomb. I sent that bomb." He said the prosecution had forensic evidence connecting the materials used in the bombings to Mr Kaczynski. Mr Kaczynski was arrested after a 17-year manhunt that captured the imagination of the American public, especially after newspapers published a rambling manifesto from the bomber. — AP.

Elections limp in Byron's footsteps

Voters would rather talk about their revolutionary poet-hero, writes Helena Smith in Messolongi

GREECE was about to hold a general election, but in Messolongi, the former socialist stronghold, you would not know it. You would not know it when you entered the western town where Lord Byron died in the War of Greek Independence. And you would not know it when you left.

After the death of Andreas Papandreu, the late prime minister entered a new political era. What you are seeing is the result of that.

Gay rights at IBM

Gay rights campaigners claimed a victory when the

These elections are a waste of time and a waste of money," said Athina Davalou, a first-time voter seated in the Byron Cafe.

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THOMSON

6 WORLD NEWS

Pact with Saddam warms Kurdish hearts and homes

But, writes David Hirst in Irbil, the victor of the civil war still wants protection from the West

FOR five years the people of "liberated" Kurdistan have been getting their petrol from the tins and makeshift containers of roadside hawkers, who smuggled it in from territory controlled by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. But this week huge queues formed outside reopened petrol stations. There, the petrol sells for 1 per cent of its previous top price, and kerosene used for domestic heating is down from about 650 dinars a barrel (about 30 pence at market rates) to 10.

As a reward to the "sincere, repentant" Kurds, led by Masoud Barzani and his Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) who recently enlisted Baghdad's help against rival Kurdish "traitors" led by Jalal Talabani and backed by Iran — President Saddam lifted his blockade of the north. Ditching fuel is the first, dramatic consequence.

Baghdad's al-Thawrah newspaper sent reporters to Irbil to record the delight of the populace, now ostensibly returning to the Iraqi fold, and their gratitude to the Victor-by-the-Grace-of-God — President Saddam's new title — whose magnanimity made this possible.

Al-Thawrah exaggerated. The Kurds were pleased, of course, especially the poor who shivered through last winter. They were even more pleased by the rebuff for President Saddam that quickly followed.

This was the meeting which Mr Barzani, the emergent "strongman" of Western-protected Kurdistan, held this week in Ankara with Robert Pelletreau, the United States assistant secretary of state for the Near East. It really began to look as if Mr Barzani's gamble, his "temporary alliance" with President Saddam, was paying off.

People thought they would get the best of both worlds: new economic ties with Baghdad, and the continuation — even strengthening — of Western protection.

It was always a vital part of Mr Barzani's gamble that the Americans cannot afford to abandon the Kurds, however angry they may be with a leader who turned to President Saddam to defeat his ad-

versary in a Kurdish civil war. Mr Barzani went to Ankara proposing a simple *quid pro quo*: what he calls "genuine" Western protection in return for a commitment to strike no "political" deal with President Saddam. "Genuine" protection means a more convincing defence than he reckons the Kurds have received so far, and one that is proof against their other tormenters — Turkey and above all Iran. The failure to furnish all-embracing protection, he said, contributed to the Kurdish civil war, which in turn endangered the US's whole "containment" of President Saddam.

KDP officials say it is doubtful whether the US can ever furnish the degree of Western protection they desire. So the Kurds' commitment to US interests is as strong as they consider the US's commitment is to their interests.

They would, they say, give their maximum commitment if the West supported their goal of complete independence. This is an unrealistic goal, and Mr Barzani has never encouraged his people to think otherwise.

The cost of caution has been high. The Kurds have enjoyed effective self-rule for five years, yet, juridically, they remain part of Iraq. So the world, led by the US, imposes on them the same sanctions as on Saddam-controlled Iraq.

This has gravely impeded Kurdish economic development, exacerbated internal political tensions, and militated against the growth of coherent governing institutions — because they would smack of the eventual statehood which the American ally Turkey, and others, cannot countenance.

If the Kurds, in their provisional "safe haven", have no clear legal or political status now, they do not have a guaranteed place in any post-Saddam Iraq either. Mr Barzani, haunted by past betrayals, also has personal misgivings about the reliability of the US.

In spite of these doubts and resentments about US policy, Mr Barzani came away from Ankara with reassurance. "We understood each other," said one of his negotiating team, "and before long you will be seeing a KDP delegation in Washington."

The US, he said, had suffered a salutary shock and, thus chastened, it would seek to ensure that no such mishap recurred. "It was suddenly dawned on them," he said, "that they need us almost as much we need them."

If he is right, and the US does perpetuate or strengthen its protection, it will not be

just for love of the Kurds. KDP officials have no illusions about that.

To be sure, the "safe haven" originally came into being for their sake, but with the passage of time it has become an essential element of the "containment" strategy whose main objective is to safeguard Western interests in the Gulf.

KDP officials believe that the US cannot let President Saddam come back to the north by stealth, even with their own connivance — because that would mean a gradual accretion of his power, leading to his eventual rehabilitation. Nor can America let him back by brute force — that would lead to another Kurdish exodus.

Another factor in the new Kurdish-Western relationship, taking shape is that the Kurds now have much more to contribute than in their years of internal feuding. Or at least they will have if Mr Barzani makes a success of the opportunities that await him as the sole, uncontested leader of his people.

If he does, the West will be protecting an entity which is much better able to protect itself and make itself less vulnerable to the interference of regional powers to which Kurdish disunity inevitably leads.

Mr Barzani has promised to turn his bizarre, precarious little realm into a "citadel of democracy and pluralism" to give parliament authority over the executive and build a non-partisan administration. Most important, perhaps, he will dissolve the competing peshmerga militias, including his own, and replace them with a regular conscript army.

Such promises have been heard before, but the Barzani-Talabani conflict obliterated them. Now that Mr Barzani has resolved it in his favour, it remains to be seen whether he keeps his promises, or turns his inheritance into another one-party system. This would eventually beget the same kind of hostilities that he has just ended.

Leader comment, page 8



AMERICAN troops fire live rounds during training in the Kuwaiti desert near the Iraqi border yesterday.

The Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, attacked President Clinton's handling of the Iraqi crisis, writes Martin Walker in

Washington. "This is an enormous defeat for the United States... that will reverberate for a generation in the Middle East," he

said — despite opinion polls showing that 61 per cent of Americans "strongly support" the president's actions. PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT FERRIER

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Bokassa in hospital with brain tumour



Marc Koffi in Abidjan

JEAN-BEDEL BOKASSA, the former self-styled emperor of the Central African Republic, is seriously ill and may need surgery to remove a brain tumour doctors said yesterday.

Mr Bokassa, aged 75 (above), has been flown to the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan, for treatment.

Mr Bokassa seized power in the Central African Republic in 1966, later crowning himself emperor. He was ousted in a French-backed coup in 1979. On his return from exile in 1986, he was tried and sentenced to death for murder and embezzlement. The sentence was later reduced to 10 years in prison.

Released in 1993, Mr Bokassa was banned for life from standing in elections. In July he asked for an amnesty so that he could stand as a presidential candidate in elections planned for 1999. — Reuter.

No EU loan for S Africa steel plant

Julie Wolf in Brussels

SOUTH AFRICAN relations with the European Union were dealt a blow yesterday when the European Commission came out against a £48 million loan to help build a steel plant near Cape Town.

The decision reflected concern that the project would boost world steel capacity when Europe's own steel industry is struggling. EU sources said. The European Investment Bank (EIB), which has up to £240 million to lend to South Africa in 1995-96, could still overrule the commission, but this would be politically difficult.

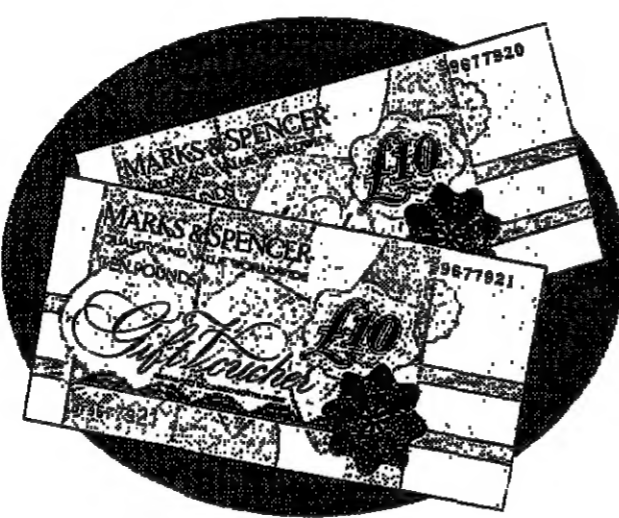
The EU's commissioner for development, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, argued that refusing the loan would be at odds with the EU's policy of promoting the economic development of South Africa.

Others contended that the loan would be inconsistent with the EU's policy of refusing state subsidies to the steel sector unless they are matched by cuts in output capacity and jobs.

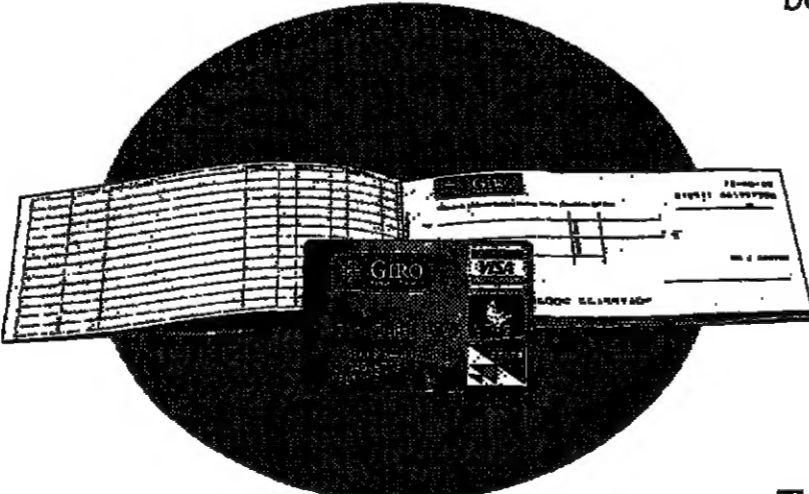
Moresover, steel produced at the new plant would mainly be for export, which could push down already low world prices and further undermine the EU's steel industry. At the centre of the commission's decision appears to be the view that South Africa does not qualify as a developing country and should therefore abide by rules on state subsidies and competition similar to those in the EU.

Mr Pinheiro's supporters also fear that the decision will be seen as a slap in the face for the government of President Nelson Mandela.

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The Guardian Douglas Hyde Crisis

Niccolo Casagrande Variety in tonal talent

Mirrored experience

Why Saddam is laughing

Aid is more useful than missiles

IT'S OFFICIAL now that Saddam Hussein has been strengthened, not weakened, by the latest events in northern Iraq and US aerial retaliation.

Externally, lack of allied support for the unilateral US action has created a perception of weakness in an area where perceptions are all important.

Saddam's internal strength is harder to gauge. Dictators have a habit of being toppled when no one is predicting it.

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Have a good trip?

The art of falling on your face

BOB DOLE's spin doctors can't decide whether he did himself a favour or not by tumbling off the platform at a campaign event.

What is much more damaging is to get a sporting reference wrong, and this may turn out to have been Mr Dole's biggest boob.

Bill Clinton, the same student was quoted as saying, is more like a parent. Perhaps that is why he dislikes being photographed while jogging.

Air travelling embarrassments seem increasingly common these days. Boris Yeltsin did not fall down the steps at Shannon.

Father, hear our prayers

A SAN ex-priest, now married with a family, I listened with interest to the Radio 4 interview with Cardinal Hume...

I think many of us would agree with his statement that "our society is preoccupied with sex".

HOW MY sides ached with laughter to hear Cardinal Basil Hume talking about the care and concern the Catholic Church owed to those women whom its priests became involved with 17 years ago...

the broken life, the broken family and the broken heart of the woman was a matter of complete indifference to it.

MY husband is a married priest. He is a deeply spiritual man, a sensitive and committed husband, friend, father and lover.

He is a man of truth and truth is costly. The greatest cost of this pursuit of truth was that, in marrying me, he was excluded from the Church...

What a tragedy the Catholic Church is diminished by excluding this man and other married priests like him.

England has allowed all of these and continues to decline. F. Bock, York Drive, Mickie Trafford, Chester CH2.

AS A social-work student, I attended courses at an ecumenical pastoral training centre, allowing an unusually frank insight into the attitudes and problems of fellow-trainees...

ANY prospective candidate for the priesthood knows full well that abstinence from sex and marriage is asked of him for Christ's sake.

fire services and selling off OAP homes - the very policies which they howled down when the Tories tried to push them through only a few years ago.

LIBERALISM and Labourism (or socialism) do not stem from the same philosophical roots. While both are reformist, Labour has tended to be "mechanical reformist", imposing change from above.

A liberal view of the Labour leader

YOU ask: Is Tony Blair a Liberal (September 18)?

The answer is yes, a free-market economic liberal and 19th-century-style Liberal: the grand heir to a tradition which refuses to promote the interests of the middle classes who spawned it...

Blair's beloved Gladstone condemned factory and mine regulation in this country and supported the pro-slave South in the US.

Saddam's internal strength is harder to gauge. Dictators have a habit of being toppled when no one is predicting it.

I WAS fascinated to read that the Liberal Party owed a great deal to the "romantic strain in William Morris's writings".

HEX CARLLE (Bye bye S-word, September 20) is not a "Liberal", but then neither are the Liberal Democrats, who have happily espoused Tory economic and defence policies as they themselves move to the right...

MANY thanks for Wally Olins' informative PR piece - sorry, article - explaining the benefits of the PR design industry.

Logo no-nos

OF COURSE Wally Olins (Comment page, September 19) seeks to justify millions of pounds spent on logos and the marketing of corporate identity symbols - he is a PR consultant!

My organisation (a public-service agency) similarly employed a PR firm to produce a logo. When I first saw it, I thought my line manager was pulling my leg.

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Nature notes

MY father, Henry Williamson, who wrote Tarka the Otter, would have been dismayed that National Nature Reserve status had been removed from Braunton Burrows in North Devon.

From this district we need to go a long way north to have any hope of finding grass of Parnassus. In sand dunes by the sea in Anglesey, it begins to flower in July.

A Country Diary

MACHYNLETH: As a party of us went off to look for a favourite plant, the grass of Parnassus, we thought of the strange names that have been given to some of the wildflowers.

From this district we need to go a long way north to have any hope of finding grass of Parnassus. In sand dunes by the sea in Anglesey, it begins to flower in July.

Why my tastes remain strictly catholic

Alice Thomas Ellis

THE Catholic Church is in something of a mess, not for the first time. The present disagreements are usually described as differences between the "traditionalists" and the "progressives" or the "liberal" and the "conservative" wings.

Outsiders imagine that the conflict arises from such matters as the celibacy of the clergy, the ordination of women, abortion and contraception and homosexual rights.

The "development of doctrine" of which the would-be reformers speak seldom leads further on the road to truth but is almost invariably tenuous and therefore misleading.

work of creation. Given the visible state of the world one can only wonder at their optimism; at their presumption.

change. Almost all of them are highly educated and experienced elementary educators.

It is not only in the US that this sort of thing is happening. I have met several bemused and across young men whose vocations have been thwarted at the first fence by connections questioning their reasons for aspiration to the priesthood.

collectively off his head. Previous Popes had warned against modernism which, as one of them observed, embraced all other heresies.

The liberal who wishes to view the world in terms of sweetness and light grows existingly bitter when faced with disagreement.

Let my Spanish priest have the last word. "Liberalism is a world complex in itself. It has its maxims, its fashions, its art, its literature, its diplomacy, its laws, its conspiracies, its amusements. It is the worst of Lucifer, disguised in our times under the name of liberalism, in radical opposition and in perpetual warfare against that society composed of the children of God, the Church of Jesus Christ."

The novelist Alice Thomas Ellis's autobiography, A Welsh Childhood, was published in 1960. Mark Lawson appears in The Week

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Fighting the child abusers across the frontiers

YOUR article (Search for lost children, September 19) on Britain's action in Europe was extremely misleading on two points.

First, it is not Britain's intention indiscriminately to block and reject action on co-ordinated laws to combat child abuse and paedophilia.

Unlike our other European partners, we are prepared to extradite our own nationals for any serious offence they commit abroad.

Give this Bill a chance

YOUR ARTICLE on the forthcoming Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Bill (Ever changing landscape that is employment law...

The article's concern about the proposal for legal officers to take cases instead of the tribunal chairperson is misplaced.

This is wrong. First, the right of appeal is not covered by the Bill but would be decided subsequently.

William Morris made the transition from youthful Radical Liberalism to mature marxist at a period when the narrow craft-trade unionism of relatively privileged skilled workers was giving way to the mass strikes of the unskilled.

Travelling in the opposite direction, I have seen regress to Liberalism. Nick Wright, 161 Brockley Rise, London SE23 1NL.

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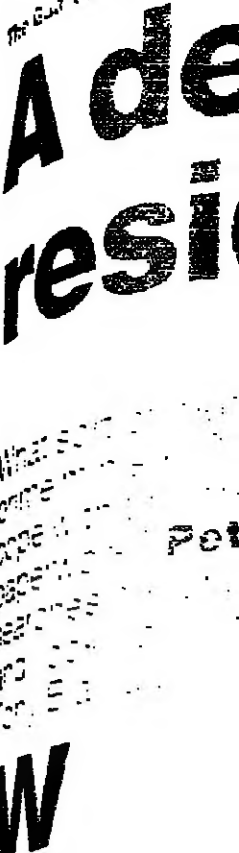
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A desirable residence

What sort of people want to be prime minister? How do they cope with the pressure and the paperwork? Peter Hennessy searches history for clues — and, looking forward, offers Tony Blair a piece of advice

WE ARE about to enter a fascinating year for prime-minister-watchers. Not only is there a strong possibility that the post will change hands next spring, but the period between now and the transition of power from Major to Blair will be punctuated by several studies of how the job has been done in the past and how its functions might be better performed in the future.

The premiership question ranges way beyond scholarly interest and academic importance. Mrs Thatcher may have called it "the most fascinating job in the world", but it's one whose requirements, in the words of a very senior insider, now stretch "absolutely beyond what any mortal could properly be expected to handle". For all the seepage of power from Downing Street thanks to an integrating Europe and a globalising economy, avoidable under-performance by the temporary resident in Number 10 affects us all.

The premiership season begins tomorrow with Michael Cockerell's television investigation *How To Be Prime Minister* (BBC2, Sunday 8.10pm). This month sees, too, the publication of Stuart Ball's and Anthony Seldon's edited study of *The Heath Government 1970-74* (Longman, £16.99), which contains an examination of the prime minister and policy-making by John Ramsden plus a complementary chapter by Ball and Seldon on Number 10 under Ted. Next week my *Muddling Through* (Gollancz, £20) includes conversations with both Heath and Jim Callaghan on how they ran their cabinets, plus cameo studies of various kinds of the other premiers who filled the years 1945-90. Next month will see the appearance of the authorised life of one of the nicest and most underrated of the post-war incumbents, with D R Thorpe's *Alec Douglas-Home* (Sinclair-Stevenson, £25), and I shall begin a series of Gresham Lectures at Gresham College which includes treatments of Churchill's last premiership, Eden's tormented and tragic stewardship, and John Major's great survival act, as well as portraits of the Heath and Callaghan periods.

If he wins, Tony Blair will be the least experienced prime minister since Ramsay MacDonald kissed hands with an anxious George V in January 1924, and found himself presented shortly after with a memo from the monarch outlining what duties he owed to his sovereign — something, I suspect, the Queen would be too tactful to send to Mr Blair in the early days of May 1997, though he will be briefed on the very special relationship that exists between Downing Street and the palace. Inevitably such a lack of the kind of Whitehall experience on which Jim Callaghan, rightly, sets such store tomorrow, when recalling his own ascension to the top job in 1976, will be a matter of intense discussion generally as the election approaches.

For his part Mr Blair will, no doubt, continue on his course of reading the biographies of past premiers for the purposes of comparing and contrasting their conduct of what Michael Cockerell calls "the toughest and loneliest job in Britain". Though, as Heath tells Cockerell in tomorrow's programme, "there is no standard prime minister," echoing Asquith's famous argument that "the office of the prime minister is what its holder chooses and is able to make of it".

What one might call *The Year Of The Prime Minister* will be rounded off in the autumn of 1997 by Anthony Seldon's as-yet-untitled biography of John Major to be published by Weidenfeld, which, though not authorised, has enjoyed the cooperation of the man himself in its preparation. Sadly, Ted Heath's long-awaited memoirs won't quite be ready for the 1998-97 premierfest, though he now has a gifted little team working with him in Salisbury. This is a special pity, as Heath was in many ways the best-prepared post-war premier in terms of the prior thought he had given on how best to re-equip the central mechanics of state.

A decade ago Anthony King of Essex University found the British prime minister a curiously understudied figure compared to the United States president. Biography was — and to a large extent remains — a surrogate for the kind of functional/institutional studies at which American scholars have excelled since Dick Neustadt's pioneering work a generation ago.

Some British premier-watchers, myself included, are in the process of trying to remedy this deficiency. And Michael Cockerell's documentary, in addition to its fascinating scoop on Harold Wilson's contemplation of a special operation to assassinate Idi Amin in 1976, does every observer of the premiership a service by getting previously unknown or formerly non-attributable reflections (plus a wealth of from-the-horse's-mouth material) into the public domain.

The historical approach, in which Cockerell is steeped, is crucial to an understanding of the prime-ministership, a job which, as Harold Wilson once explained, is largely "organised by history". Jim Callaghan is especially eloquent on this when he recalls tomorrow evening the moments after he finally stepped across the threshold of most British politicians' ambitions in April 1976. "I stood there for a moment," he says of his arrival in the cabinet room as prime minister, "and it was a very profound feeling. I felt somehow that I'd become a guide to lead the nation into the

future and at the same time a trustee of all that was best in our past." Callaghan was squarely in the romantic, May 1940 tradition, when Churchill on his arrival felt "as if I were walking with destiny and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and this trial".

Ted Heath, by contrast, reveals himself tomorrow to be more in the Attlee mould (Attlee, when asked if he felt destiny had overtaken him in July 1946, replied characteristically: "No, I had not much idea about destiny"). Heath, who is much more of a romantic than he lets on, "I've always thought that inside that extraordinary exterior is a little pink, quivering Ted trying to get out," as one of his cabinet colleagues once remarked of him fondly, tells Michael Cockerell when asked the "destiny" question: "No, No. Really. No, I didn't spend my time looking around and saying, 'How historic this is, Heath... No, No. No. You get on with the job.'"

But what is "the job"? Nobody has ever produced a specification for it. The Cabinet Office and Number 10 had a kind of stab in the late 1940s, and their efforts are preserved in a fascinating file at the Public Record Office labelled *Function Of The Prime Minister And His Staff*, which, so far as I can tell, was never shown to Mr Attlee or any of his successors. The officials listed a dozen functions for their boss.

I attempted to update them last year and found they had grown to 33, ranging from appointing regius professors to launching, if the need arose, a Trident missile. And this tally involved only governmental duties. It excluded all those extra-governmental

and non-parliamentary party functions that will absorb a very high proportion of Mr Major's time between now and polling day.

The British prime minister is still a near-stranger to statutory duties. But the job is punishing, because it is a kind of sumo in which sink the important functions of state that are neither exercised by the head of state (the Queen) nor her individual ministers according to the requirements, and the attendant public expenditure, which falls to them under various descriptions.

Again the Cockerell investigation brings out the different personal flavours very nicely, contrasting, for example, Jim Callaghan ("I had no desire to be absolutely *au fait* with everything that was going on" and his successor "I don't have time to relax very much. I'm always on the job"). Douglas Hurd, who saw three PMs at work from close quarters (he was Heath's political secretary in Number 10 and was a cabinet minister under both Thatcher and Major) is the best provider of advice to the next in the line of apostolic succession from Robert Walpole. "The main advice must be the use of time," he declares tomorrow. "If Mr Blair I would ask Mr Hurd, who has thought more about the problems of 'overload' than any



The young Harold Wilson dreams of destiny on the steps of Number 10, Downing Street

other contemporary politician to do for me what Harold Macmillan asked Attlee to do for him when he became prime minister in 1957 — to lead a thorough examination of "the burden on ministers", including the prime-ministerial load, and to recommend ministerial easements where feasible.

If Mr Hurd were so commissioned, he might start with the flow of paper across the premier's desk. Using the Number 10 archive at the Public Record Office, which now reaches 1965, I conducted an audit this year of the explosion of files passing through the PM's in-tray be-

tween Attlee in 1948 (215 files) and Wilson in 1965 (680), an increase of 123 per cent. I suspect such growth has continued over the past 30 years.

Paper is but one indicator which demonstrates that, unreformed, ours is a system of central government which produces a cumulative overload at the top that leaves

even the more titanic premiers bone-tired, intellectually exhausted and physically overstretched and, when their turn comes to depart, painfully mindful of Asquith's other famous dictum on the premiership — "Power, power? You think you are going to get it but you never do."

THIS WEEK'S ESSAYIST, Peter Hennessy, is Professor of Contemporary History at Queen Mary and Westfield,

London, and Gresham Professor of Rhetoric at Gresham College, London. His *The Hidden Writings: Unearthing The British Constitution* is published next week in an updated paperback edition (Indigo, £7.99)

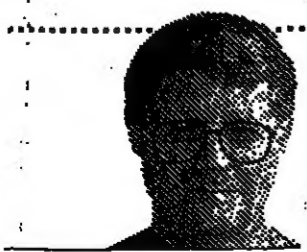
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Fearless — most of the time



Martin Kettle

THE Liberal Democrats, who inaugurate the party season proper next week at Brighton, pride themselves on being very different from the other two parties. And in some respects, of course, they are. They have some distinctive policies, notably on tax, the environment and electoral reform, at which many in the Labour Party also look with wistful envy. They have a distinctive political culture, which even today manifests itself in a civilised earnestness of manner. Above all, they are different in that few of them think seriously in terms of national — as distinct from local — government. Yet

the sense of difference which is such a source of pride to Liberal Democrats is nowadays becoming more apparent than real. As usual, there will be a lot of talk at Brighton next week about how the Liberal Democrats are this distinctive and radical party, how they are the only one of the three prepared to face the difficult issues about tax, how they are the only one that is not in hook to vested interests.

The attitude towards Tony Blair will be endlessly patronising and snooty. Yet an awful lot of this talk is bogus. This is a party of very selective fearlessness. Once again, for instance, there is to be no debate at Brighton about defence policy or nuclear weapons, on which this party's predecessor, and indeed Paddy Ashdown himself, have in the past had fearless things to say. Now they either judge it more prudent to remain silent — just as they condemn Labour for doing so — or else they have given up trying, frozen in the politics of the 1980s. Or take two other examples. I am not trying to paint the Liberal Democrats as a party

transformed overnight into a bunch of hypocritical trimmers. That would be an injustice. But I think they are becoming increasingly a party like any other. Like the other two parties, they have calculated the content of the conference by the impact they expect it to make on the television news. There will be a lot of jibes against Peter Mandelson and political packaging at Brighton, but the Liberal Democrat hierarchs are nowadays just as prepared as their Labour counterparts to tailor their own political events to impress the floating voters.

And who is to say that they are wrong in that? On one level, they are only being conventionally professional in their approach. For years, the Liberal Democrats were mocked by their opponents and by the media for a certain woolly amateurism. Now they have exchanged their woolies for suits it is a bit much to denounce them for that too. Like Blair, but without his determination, resources or success, the Liberal Democrats are themselves part of the convergence of British politics. To some degree, that

is to be expected in a pre-election period. And yet it shows every sign of becoming a permanent feature of the politics of the foreseeable future. This raises, I think, a complex but important wider question about the future of a healthy form of party politics. It used to be argued that the great virtue of party politics in a democracy was that different parties could put substantially different, even sharply contrasting, programmes to the electorate and that the voters would then make one choice or the other. Today, that model seems far removed from any reality. The parties may detest one another with undiminished passion, and there may still be massive cultural differences between them, but the substance of their disputes is very much narrower than it once was.

This leads the parties to emphasise spurious or marginal differences rather than substantial ones. Everyone recognises this in the contest between Labour and Conservative, but the Liberal Democrats are consenting adults in convergence too. I accept that the parties have been driven to converge by electoral realities rather than

by their own wickedness or lack of principle. If the voters had shown that they were happy to listen to and be swayed by a serious public argument about nuclear weapons, Europe or the motor car, then the parties would have responded. But the effect is to drive out what used to be thought of as real choice. A thorough-going state socialist option is available to voters in the shape of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, but there are few takers. An alternative politics exists in the form of the Green Party, but that party very nearly decided not even to bother contesting elections. It seems as though the only non-convergent parties which can survive in this political environment are local separatist movements such as the SNP.

Luciano Benetton keeps it in the family

PROFILE: Italian mogul who goes his own way talks to Pauline Springett



Luciano Benetton... Talk of the succession is premature

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

LUCIANO Benetton, 61-year-old president and co-founder of the eponymous Italian business empire, would almost pass as a traditional tycoon. The tweed suit is perhaps a little better cut than that of the average Brit. But it is the unruly mass of curly white hair and the green tie emblazoned with sheep jumping hurdles which suggest that Mr Benetton may not be an ordinary mogul.

Benetton store this week on Oxford Circus. Still, it is perhaps an advance that he is wearing clothes at all. He was once photographed nude for an advertising campaign, and more recently he and his family were pictured wearing straitjackets. Around 40 years ago, Luciano's sister Giuliana presented him with a multi-coloured jumper she had made herself. The pullover attracted much admiration, the siblings started a small business selling their sister's wools and the seeds of an empire were sown. The holding company, Edizione Holding spa, controls four main arms: manufacturing, which encompasses the fashion group; property; food retailing and motorway restaurants; and a miscellaneous collection of businesses which includes a bank. Benetton is a family concern. Luciano is the president, brother Gilberto is vice president, Carlo is the production director of Benetton worldwide and Giuliana is the creative force. Numerous Benetton children now work in various parts of the empire, including Alessandro, Luciano's son, who is tipped to take over one day.

If Luciano has his way, that day will be a long way off. Talk of the succession is, he says, premature. "I don't know what retirement would be." Perhaps, he adds, he would be forced to work less if he was paralysed in his bed. He works an 11½ day, five days a week. Away from work he professes to prefer the quiet life. "I like places that are not too crowded." The family nature of the business is very important to him, despite expansion having necessitated employing non-family in important jobs. Benetton sticks to family and close friends for key posts.

"We would hardly ever welcome outsiders." The group is 72 per cent owned by the Benetton family, with the rest split almost equally between Italian and American institutional investors. Mr Benetton is dismissive of the concerns of external investors. "As a rule we don't intervene on share prices. I can say that the share price is often ruled by mood. There is no reason for us to take action." However, he stresses that this year's profits are on course to be higher than 1995 when the group made 239 billion lire (£30 million) after recovering from a sharp fall in demand the year before. The company will be debt-free by the year end, he insists. Benetton's fashion range may have been built on jumpers but it has sold a wider range of clothes for some years. The Benetton name has gained worldwide recognition thanks to the often controversial, some would say deliberately offensive, advertising campaigns featuring images such as a black woman breastfeeding a white baby and a man dying of Aids. Mr Benetton is unapologetic. "I agree with the overall approach. These images

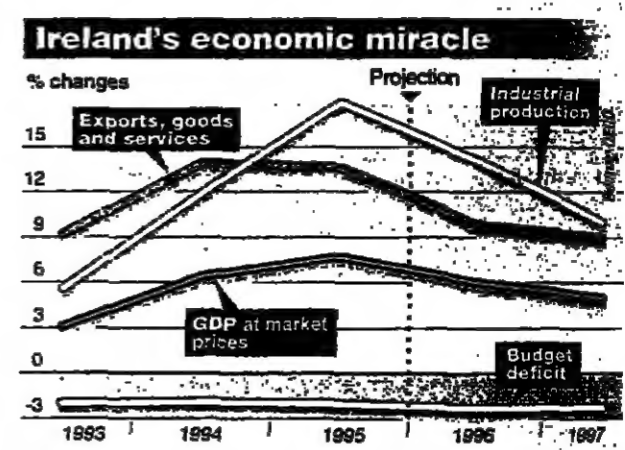
are part of life and part of entertainment." He adds that different images shock different cultures. "We do not do this deliberately." Is there anything he would draw the line at depicting? "I wouldn't claim our product is better than other people's." Equally bizarre is Benetton's plunge into the world of Formula One motor racing. But the team won last season's championship with a drivers' and constructors' double. "It's proved we are well organised and successful in something that is not our core business. It enhances our image." But not all publicity is

good. Next March, Mr Benetton is due to stand trial on charges that he was a party to the fraudulent bankruptcy of the Fiorucci clothing company. He insists on his innocence, saying that he parted company with Fiorucci a year and a half before it went bust. "We never ran this company," he said. His lawyers are on the case. Which leaves him free to concentrate on redefining Benetton — they are moving from boutiques to larger stores. "I have the feeling of never having reached my goal. There is always room for improvement and growth."

Is there anything he would draw the line at depicting? 'I wouldn't claim our product is better than other people's.'

Money men look to ride the Irish tiger

Strong economy and a common ancestry might disarm the Americans. But are the numbers all blarney?



Sarah Whitebloom reports

TAKE one trillion dollars, 80 American fund managers and a certain amount of Guinness, and somehow, somewhere, some investment cash ought to find its way to Ireland. That, at least, is the strong expectation in Dublin following last week's Pensions 2000 conference, which attracted some of the biggest investors in the US to the Irish capital and Belfast.

The big money men came — and were impressed — despite the recent flare-up of the 'Troubles in the North. With a set of economic figures which would do one of the east's tiger economies proud, it is scarcely any surprise — although some of the American guests believed the numbers almost too good to be true. Ireland's real GDP growth rate last year was 6.5 per cent, inflation was down to 1.3 per cent in May and 45 per cent of its highly educated population is under 28 years of age. The North's growth rate is also moving rapidly — at around 3 per cent — and it is tipped to become the UK's fastest growing region by the year 2000.

By contrast, the UK's overall growth rate in 1995 was 2.4 per cent, inflation has not been under two per cent since 1993 and the population is ageing. Nor is Ireland suffering as badly from the 1996-97 downturn projected by the OECD as the rest of Europe. One astonished US visitor is said to have asked: "Is this all blarney? Can it really be so perfect?" Damian Hennessy, of the Irish Industrial Development Agency, said it is still too early to see positive commitments. But a key beneficiary of any investment could be Dublin's International Financial Services Centre, he said.

'It is the jewel in the crown which is important for employment'

And captive insurers have flocked to the Liffey-side site. Mr Hennessy said: "It is the jewel in the crown. And it is a labour intensive industry, which is important for the unemployment situation."

Overseas firms face taxes of just 10 per cent, but Mr Hennessy insisted the IFSC's success is "not just driven by the tax factors". "There is a strong flow of well-educated labour."

Over the next month or two, according to Mr Hennessy, some dividends are expected from the conference. "Some of the groups certainly were interested and we expect to be following it up with meetings in the near future," he said. "We are optimistic."

Obviously, the total cessation of the Troubles would add to Ireland's attractions — in the republic and more particularly, the North according to some US fund managers. There is another appeal which Dublin is not slow to trade on. More than a few of those who made the trip last week had surnames which would suggest they own some allegiance to Ireland. Mr Hennessy admitted ancestry "can make a difference". He maintained that it can help an Irish firm get through the door to make presentation if the potential investor claims to be of Irish descent, as 40 million Americans do. But: "It comes down to pounds, shillings and pence — descent doesn't guarantee anything."



It's nice to meet you.

It's Matt Ryan's job to listen. As a Senior Designer at LG Electronics Design-Tech, Matt must intimately understand the different aesthetics of each European country. And then translate that understanding into intelligently designed TVs, VCRs, microwaves and other products. (Matt and his colleagues even helped design their company's Red Oak House headquarters.) At LG, we listen a lot to our customers. We think that habit explains why we're leaders in advanced applications like thin-film transistor liquid crystal displays and high-definition TV. We're active in many other business areas too, including DRAM memory chips, pharmaceuticals, and satellite communications. And the same dedication and customer focus Matt Ryan and his fellow designers bring to their work, our 126,000 other employees bring to our other areas of expertise. Now, how can we help you?



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Maxwell banks in firing line

DTI set to publish report on Mirror Group flotation

Don Atkinson

TOP City firms including the merchant banks Samuel Montagu and Salomon Brothers are braced for criticism of their roles in the controversial sale in 1991 of £250 million of shares in Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers.

The indications are that Department of Trade and Industry inspectors have nearly completed their investigation of the circumstances surrounding the hugely hyped share offer.

Also in the line of fire will be any brokers who helped Robert Maxwell to mount a secret share-support operation weeks after the troubled float in order to prop up the level of MGN stock.

To ensure fair trials for Maxwell criminal-case defendants, newspapers were able to report only Mr Justice Millett's finding that the banks Credit Suisse, Lehman Brothers and Swiss Volksbank could keep proceeds of \$81 million pledged to them by Robert Maxwell.

Kevin of having lied to banks. Kevin did not give evidence in this hearing, there was no jury and the judge's comments have nothing like the weight of a criminal court verdict.

Along with Montagu and Salomon, the broker Smith New Court was an adviser to the float; it has since been bought by Merrill Lynch. None of the parties was able to comment last night on the inquiry.

Saturday Notebook

Standing alone starts to be risky



Alex Brummer

IN the turbulent world of investment banking, where a single derivative or foreign exchange trade can wipe out tens of millions of pounds in the blink of an eye, fund and asset management has long been considered a safe, reliable source of income.

In London — an employee of an overseas subsidiary. The Bank of England's new approach is designed to gain a better understanding of such risks and to relay them to fellow regulators.

The 90,000 savers in the three DMG European trusts have been fortunate. As a result of previous difficulties at Morgan Grenfell, which was swept up in the Guinness scandal of the late 1980s, the once-illustrious, independent merchant bank is now part of Deutsche, which has one of the banking world's strongest balance sheets.

2,500 insurance staff at risk in Lloyds deal

Sarah Whitbloom

CONCERN was growing last night over the fate of thousands of jobs following the disclosure that Lloyds Abbey Life is set to become a fully owned subsidiary of the Lloyds-TSB group.

The announcement — which came as Lloyds announced a top board-level reshuffle — is expected to spell bad news for the insurance workers in the group, with back office rationalisation and other cuts expected to follow the takeover.

The bank refused to comment yesterday on likely losses. But it confirmed the widespread expectation that Sir Brian Pitman, the present chief executive, is to become chairman and Peter Ellwood, a deputy group chief executive, is to move behind Sir Brian's old desk. The Bank of England gave its approval to the two appointments.



Upwardly mobile... Peter Ellwood (left), new chief executive of Lloyds-TSB, and Sir Brian Pitman, who is to become chairman

concerned about the future of the staff in the insurance areas.

According to the union, more than 2,500 staff in the TSB insurance arm and Abbey Life could be affected.

The City, meanwhile, welcomed the deal as "commercial logic" and hoped to see cost benefits coming through.

Lloyds group now is how to secure cost savings following its various takeovers. The unions have been braced for big job losses since the takeover of the TSB and are forecasting cuts of up to 10,000 staff throughout the group.

There was little surprise in the market over the top appointments at Lloyds. According to one broker: "It's got to be good. It's the best possible combination."

Clearer gives staff last word on works council

Industrial Staff

LOYDS-TSB, the only one of the main clearing banks which has failed to establish a works council, yesterday said it was prepared to consider its position if staff and unions asked it to do so.

The stream of big British corporations rushing to set up works councils before a deadline set by European legislation continued to swell yesterday. Barclays Bank was among a number of other companies to agree to establish a council yesterday, two days before the deadline to put in place worker consultation on cross-border issues.

Any multinational with more than 1,000 employees must set up councils if two or more EU countries.

Lloyds insisted yesterday that it had established good communications with its unions and staff, and saw no necessity to set up a works council. The bank employs some 73,000 staff in the UK and 1,400 on the Continent, mostly in Germany and Spain.

A spokesman admitted, however, that after Sunday the group would have to establish a forum for consultation if its staff requested that, suggesting that the bank was not prepared to countenance a legal challenge over the issue.

The Anglo-Dutch consumer products group Unilever was another of the large companies to establish a council yesterday.

BA moves to ground USAir claim

Keith Harper Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways today urged a US judge to throw out claims made against it by its partner, USAir, which it accused of suffering from "corporate amnesia".



In dispute... BA chief Bob Ayling 'regrets' partner's action

In a motion before a New York court, Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said: "We regret that USAir has brought these proceedings against us. There is no basis for them and we believe that this is not an appropriate way to conduct business between members of an alliance.

"Even modest scrutiny of the complaint reveals that, as a matter of law, all of USAir's claims should be dismissed."

BA also claims that USAir's management apparently hopes to escape its obligations under the investment agreement and to achieve a more favourable agreement.

Merrill braced for Orange charges

Bank Trust in New York

MERRILL Lynch, the Wall Street powerhouse, was bracing itself yesterday for formal charges of security law violations stemming from the bankruptcy of Orange County.

The SEC has concentrated on Merrill because it did so much business with Orange County.

At the time of the bankruptcy filing, the pool managed by Orange County treasurer Robert Citron held \$30 billion in securities, \$14 billion of which was bought from Merrill, which made in one year alone at least \$242 million from dealings with the county.

Stagecoach goes offshore

THE smallest part of British Rail's passenger operations — an 8.5-mile line on the Isle of Wight — was yesterday handed to Stagecoach, the bus and rail operator's second rail franchise win in less than a year.

The Island Line is one of 35 pieces of BR's passenger network being sold off by the Government, which is giving Stagecoach an average annual subsidy of £1.86 million over the five-year life of the contract. In the first year, it will receive £3.01 million, declining to £1.75 million in the final year.

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Canada 2,077£	Hong Kong 11,70£	New Zealand 2,150£	Sweden 10,11£
Cyprus 0,7010£	India 55,35£	Norway 9,8025£	Switzerland 1,883£
Denmark 8,9125£	Ireland 0,3885£	Portugal 233,50£	Turkey 135,708£
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Finance Guardian

Anticipating the mango . . .

Carmakers are changing gear to serve the 'empty nesters' demanding more fun, says CHRIS BARRIE

Totally orgasmic" is how Jaguar chairman Nick Scheele describes the XK8, the 2-seater sports car which will do a shade under 100mph when no one is looking.

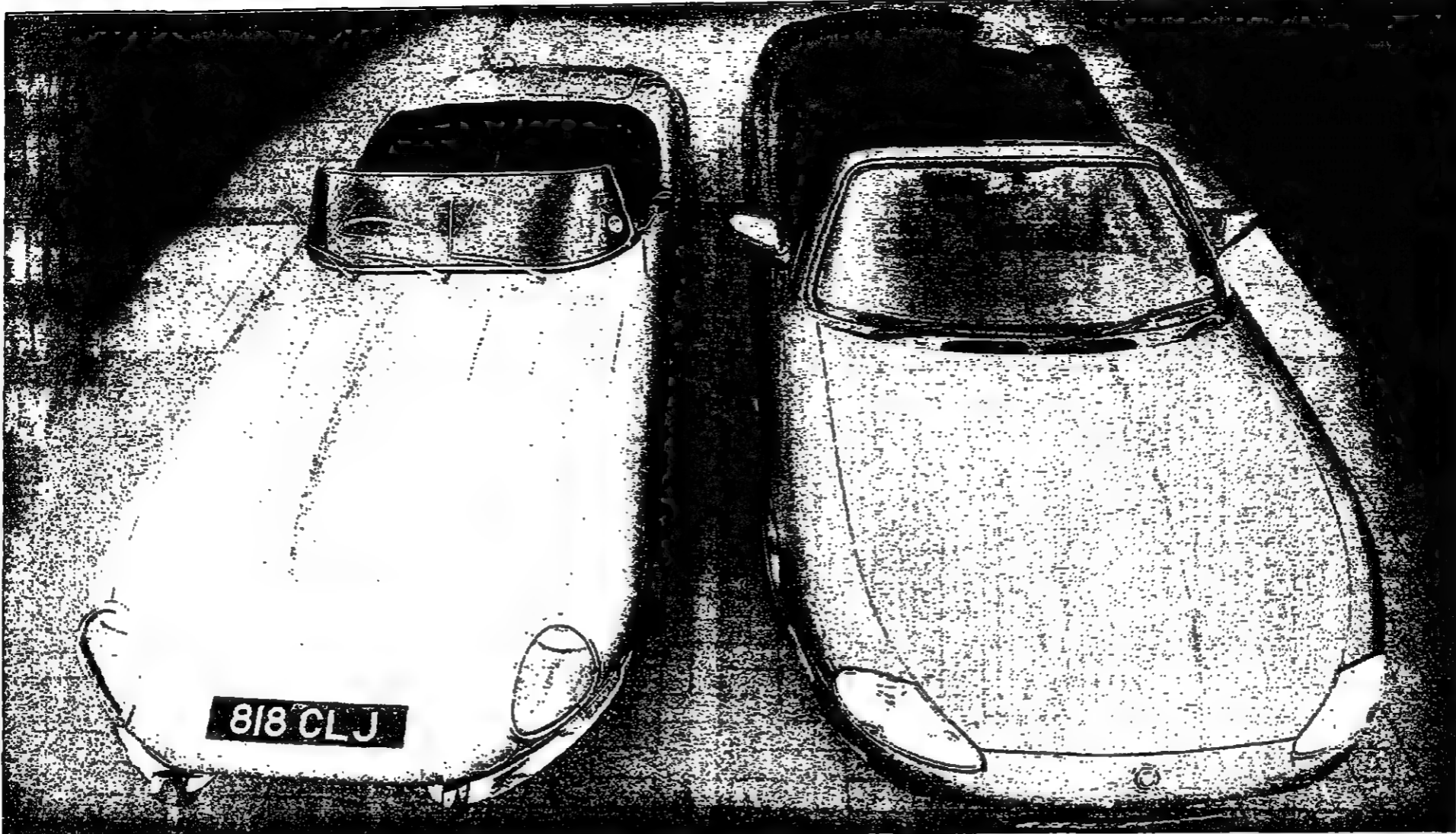
Warning to his theme, the American likens the sensuality of the E-Type's successor to eating a mango del Marilla, the king of mangos. "You'll always take the long road, go cross-country rather than on the motorway, with the XK8."

He draws back from saying the car is actually better than sex. But Jaguar, now owned by Ford, clearly believes that it has developed a stunning £47,000 supercar that will generate as much excitement as the E-Type once did, burying forever its hapless past as a British Leyland subsidiary.

The company is not alone in turning to the sports car to achieve classier status.

Tomorrow Rover is holding the first birthday party for the MGF, its stylish but far cheaper sports car. The celebration, to which all 6,000 UK buyers have been invited, will highlight Rover's effort to haul itself out of mass market car manufacturing and into the more profitable world of premium brands.

Other companies are rushing new products into the sports car market too. Fiat and Alfa Romeo have



Family resemblance... The lineage of the £47,000 Jaguar XK8 is clear from the legendary 1962 E-Type Series 1 convertible to its left at Jaguar's Coventry plant. With a 4 litre V8 engine, top speed is 156 mph and acceleration 0-60 mph in 6.4 seconds

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE HILL

launched the Barchetta and the Spider. Porsche has launched the Boxster. Mazda has revamped its successful MX5, and BMW and Mercedes-Benz have launched skirt-hitching Z3 and SLK convertibles respectively.

At the top end of the market, Aston Martin has roared past its previous sales record of 591 cars — set in 1986 — with 726 sales last year. The company, like Jaguar a Ford subsidiary, is selling more cars overseas, preparing an

even higher performance version of its DB7 and talking of extra production capacity.

Suddenly the western world is awash in stylish sports cars. Congestion and pollution may worsen, but there are plenty of drivers who want to have fun.

There are straightforward economic explanations. Official figures released on Wednesday showed that high street sales are booming in a way not seen since the late 1980s. Disposable incomes

matter to sports car makers because the open-topped car is usually a second or third car — or, in the case of Aston Martin and Jaguar, one in the "stable".

Professor Jim Randle, formerly Jaguar's engineering director and now head of the automotive engineering centre at Birmingham University, compares the revival of the sports car to parallel surges of fascination for classic motor bikes and 4x4 vehicles. "What matters is what

they say about you. These cars are never driven properly. It is how they make you feel that counts."

Professor Randle adds that society's collective guilt about the car may be diminishing. Having heard forecasts of the death of the sports car due to speed limits and then seen speed-orientated car design and advertising in the 1980s, Prof Randle suggests that drivers are again enjoying the simple pleasure of the wind on their faces.

John Kiff, a senior researcher for the International Car Distribution Programme at Cardiff Business School, says sales are growing on the back of "empty nesters" — men and women whose children have left home. "They are stress relief machines," he says.

Jaguar marketing director Phil Cazaly says this "reward factor" — having brought up the family, now I want a toy — will be important to the XK8's success. Buyers also have to be and are, supremely confident about priorities. Discarding the usual compromises, XK8 buyers want two seats and 156 mph. The car is a statement.

Fine marketing, but will it work? And will it last?

Worth a test drive . . .

Aston Martin DB7: £82,500. Bond favourite updated. Supercharged 6-cylinder 5.2 litre engine. Top speed, 165 mph. Acceleration, 0-60 mph in 5.5 seconds. Add £7,450 for convertible.

Rover MGF: £19,386. Two-seater seeks to reclaim Rover's primacy from the Japanese. Innovative 1.6 litre K-series engine. Top speed, 130 mph. Acceleration, 0-60 mph in 7 seconds.

Mazda MX5: £18,010. Car that convinced everyone sports cars were worth making. Recently revamped. 1.8 litre engine. Top speed, 123 mph. Acceleration, 0-60 mph in 8.6 seconds.

Sports cars are less masculine in design as a result. Air Cazaly says: "What appeals to people is the exterior styling. If the car is gorgeous, there is no difference in its appeal to men and women."

More than 30 per cent of XK8 sales should be to women, compared with 30 per cent for its predecessor, the XJS.

Nick Scheele draws a distinction between the cheaper sports cars and the luxury ones like the XK8. History shows that the "mass" market is cyclical owing to the demographics of the car buying market. If the past is anything to go by, the market will peak in three years and could leave manufacturers jostling for falling sales.

By contrast, luxury sports car sales have been steady for some time and dominated, until now, by Mercedes and Lexus. The market is steadier because extremely rich people tend to be unaffected by economic downturns — though they may not want to be seen spending in hard times.

Jaguar hopes to tap into this affluence and, buoyed by sharply better productivity and quality levels, to make good profits. This explains the XK8's mix of high performance and comfort.

But it may be that the economics of car manufacturing have now changed enough to ensure that the sports car is here to stay, cheap or expensive, falling sales or otherwise.

Prof Randle says flexible manufacturing systems now make it commercially feasible to build cars at volumes of 5,000 to 10,000 units a year, for sale at between £10,000 and £35,000. These are far smaller production runs than were feasible in the days of large, dedicated production lines.

The largest cost is not the body, but the engine. However, these can be adapted from engines developed for other cars. The secret is to borrow as much as possible from them and be disciplined about cost.

The XK8 is in a different league but the same applies. It has its own engine and the factory will make about 12,000 a year at first. But Mr Scheele admits that the car could not have been developed, unless the company was part of the Ford empire. Apart from finance, Ford gave Jaguar access to its research and its buying muscle meant suppliers were prepared to take the company's small orders seriously. Aston Martin says the same.

It is one of the ironies of motoring history that top marques such as Jaguar and Aston Martin are now dependent on the maker of Mondeo and Escorts for their future.



**Does he dye his hair?
Which was his favourite funeral?
What did his arm smell like when it was split open by a bullet?**

Tomorrow, Lynn Barber, Britain's finest interviewer, skewers Britain's most enigmatic politician

The Observer

ONLY 10 years ago manufacturers were arguing that sports cars made no commercial sense. The TR7 and the MGB had foundered on the rocks of BL's finances, US emissions laws and appalling build quality. MG owners saw their marquee tacked on to Maestros and Montegos.

Sports car enthusiasts turned to "hot hatches", particularly Volkswagen's Golf GTI and Peugeot's 205 GTI. Built on the same production lines as their pedestrian sister models, these hatchbacks were cheaper to develop and make, they outperformed the traditional sports car and they had four seats.

But then came the rising sun of Japanese car company Mazda. A specialist in producing cars for niche markets, Mazda decided there was a market for the traditional sports car and its MX5 proved them right. More than 10,000 have been sold in the UK since 1989 and this year could set a new record.

But the sports car revival has to be kept in perspective. Michael Garside, an economist at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, says today's sports cars represent only a fraction of the car market. In their heyday,

Drivers are once again enjoying the simple pleasure of the wind on their faces

Quick Crossword No. 8237

Across

- 1,5 Home everyone can look into (8,4)
- 9 Seat — procrastinator! (5)
- 10 Cupboard — ministers! (7)
- 11 Street with Bank (12)
- 13 Make wealthy (5)
- 14 Amble (6)
- 17 Bulbs for salad (5,6)
- 20 Mistake (flower) (7)
- 21 Charge to account (5)
- 22 Jug (4)
- 23 Former name of African country (8)

Down

- 1 Four forth or be effusive (4)
- 2 Dressed skin (7)
- 3 It doesn't really pay (5,7)
- 4 Withdraw (from larger body) (5)
- 6 Possessed (5)
- 7 In recent times (8)
- 8 (Given to) wool-gathering (6-6)
- 12 Prudent or aware (8)
- 15 Public transport (7)
- 16 Quarter (5)
- 18 French river (5)
- 19 Volcano (4)

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Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 119 Finsbury Road, London EC1R 3ER, and at 164 Deansgate, Manchester M3 9PL. Printed at West Ferry Presses Ltd, 226 West Ferry Road, London E14 8NK, and at Trafford Park, Printers, Langlands Road, Manchester M17 1SL. For Overseas Distribution: Admitt-Rosenbach, Senne 1, 6079 Neu-Isenburg/Zeppenheim, Germany. Nord-Ediz, 1527 rue du Commerce.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-307

London Telephone 0171-278 2332 Telex 891746 (Guard G) Fax 0171-837 2114, 103 833 8342 Manchester sales 0171-611 9000 Manchester Telephone 0161-632 7200 Fax 0161-632 5261/5262/5263/5264

Mark Lawson
The who would be
SAVIN
S.A.V.I.N.

مكزامن التجميل

The Guardian
the week

Mark Lawson heard God calling him to the priesthood. And he heard the siren call of the girl in the pew next door. In the week when the world heard of another bishop found wanting, he looks back at the hormones and hesitations of...

The boy who would be Pope

IF THINGS had turned out differently I might have written, this week, not a Saturday article about celibacy in the Roman Catholic Church but a Sunday sermon on the same subject. Except for the strong possibility that — like former Bishop Roddy Wright of Argyll & the Isles — I would, in fact, be breaking off to pen a billet-doux to a divorcee of the parish, or a furtive birthday card to my secret teenage son. But blessedly in my case, the libido got the better of the vocation before ordination.

Like many pious young Catholic males, I was mildly urged towards the clergy. My mother would have been proud; my father — who, despite his own success, had a brooding sense of the insecurities of existence — advised that it was one way of never having to worry about employment or accommodation.

Family pressure and a fear of the outside world's competitive structures are, I would guess, two of the major lures to ordination. The third catchment area — poor working-class boys, especially in Ireland, where the Church operates, rather like boxing, as a financial parachute — did not apply in this case.

The first step for those who thought they might have "heard the call" was to spend a week with the religious teaching order which ran my school. Joining in the life

of the community and praying for guidance, you were interviewed on the final day by the Director of Vocations.

All applicants for jobs they might not want prepare a plus-and-minus ledger. On the positive side was the fact that teaching, writing, performance and fame — four of my ambitions at 17 — were all still possible under the cloth. There is a theatricality in religion — in the delivery of a sermon and, most of all, the celebration of the Mass — which can make it seem a glamorous profession, even an extension of showbiz and the media. Indeed, priests had television series; popes published books.

On the debit side was the fact that sex — another major aspiration at the time — would have to remain a pipe dream or, indeed, a wet dream. However, I was suffering unrequited love for a girl at the local church and clearly remember thinking: this will show her. There was, it is now clear, an error of logic in this operatic locking-up of what she hadn't wanted anyway, but it seems certain that at least some young men do take holy orders to spite their hormones.

The Catholic Church's problem in this area is that most of its potential recruits to the priesthood are virgins, many of whom assume, with the apocalyptic lack of confidence of adolescents, that they will remain vir- **page 14**



NATIONAL SAVINGS
Investment Ideas

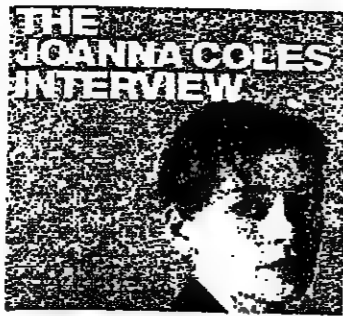
HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

SELF-ASSESSMENT IS APPROACHING, so I'm interested in simple tax-free investments. Any ideas?

James Glover, Bristol

Duet in perfect harmony

Iris Murdoch and John Bayley still make a fine team. But just now, she's suffering a slight block



THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW

"BELL not working. WE ARE HERE. Knock vigorously." I do, and the cheery face of Professor John Bayley promptly appears at the window, chewing baked beans. "Come in, come in my dears," he exclaims, opening the front door and waving an oval piece of toast. "I find beans just the thing for lunch don't you? We're not lunch people, we're dinner people, that's when we eat properly, so come in, come in."

He whisks us through a chaotic hall past a vast, unsteady pyramid of books and into the most eccentric drawing room I have ever seen. There are heaving carrier bags spilling their paper guts across the floor, old stones and sticks, wild piles of books and papers which look as if they may have reproduced on their own the night before. The walls are Georgian Green and though it is midday it's dark, the window unintelligible to the light because of the fig leaves outside creeping across the pane.

As we sit down, Dame Iris Murdoch spirits herself gracefully into the room, and I suddenly notice there's an abandoned glass of red wine tucked away under each arm chair, as if perhaps in case of emergency.

Hello, she smiles, her eyes wide and friendly and although I have already explained on the telephone, I explain again that I'm here because there are rumours she has given up writing for good. It is not the easiest of questions to ask such an intelligent and prolific author, and I am worried she may think me rude for even trying. But can it be true?

To my huge relief she smiles. "Well, I'm trying to do something, but it hasn't well..." and then she starts laughing.

"Just a bit of a block I think," interrupts Bayley, her husband of 40 years, cheerfully.

"Yes, it's not well, I certainly am trying," she replies.

Now 71, Dame Iris is without question one of the finest writers of her generation, to date producing 28 novels including the hugely acclaimed *The Sea*, *The Sea*, *The Black Prince* and *The Red And The Green*. Her last book, *Jackson's Dilemma*, was published in hardback last autumn, but nothing has followed. Has she suffered from this kind of block before? "I think this is a very bad one," she says absently.

"It has occurred before darling," says Bayley, leaning towards her reassuringly. "You've had periods of lying fallow, as one might say, rather like a field. Because what is really rather extraordinary about you darling, if I might say, is that you don't mind being interrupted, and you don't keep pompous writing hours. You simply write whenever you feel like it."

"Perhaps," she says flatly. "I wonder if she still reads a lot?"

"Yes, I do." And do you still enjoy writing when you can?

"Well, I enjoy it, when I've found a way out, as it were. But um, otherwise..." and she smiles wanly, almost apologetically. "Otherwise I'm in a very, very bad, quiet place."

We are all quiet for a moment before Bayley says to her. "In the past, because of your philosophical mind perhaps, you've tended to get the whole novel worked out in meticulous detail haven't you? It's almost as if you don't mind my saying, like a mathematical theorem. The whole thing worked out in advance."

She falters. "Well I..."

"I keep suggesting she should start in an ordinary way. You know, Tom and Dick were sitting in a pub"

"Oh, but I'm afraid I can't do that," says Iris quickly



The Dame and the Professor... 'I enjoy writing when I've found a way out. But otherwise I'm in a very, very bad, quiet place,' says Murdoch

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCGABE

years ago, heads off to make coffee. "I feel gloomy," says Dame Iris gently. Does she think this will pass, or is it simply old age?

"I think I just haven't yet got anything which will help me," she whispers, adding bravely: "I expect something will turn up."

Did she find it difficult to live up to her reputation? "Well, the books I've written in the past I've done quite quickly, and known what to do and been geared up by them. But I'm afraid at the moment that I'm just falling, falling... just falling as it were. But I may get better. I hope so."

There is a copy of *Conversations* with Isaiah Berlin lying open at her feet. What else is she reading at the moment? "Um, well, quite a lot of things, but I haven't found anything which would be really useful to me. I find I haven't got anything at the moment, and this is really rather startling to me. I feel as though maybe the whole thing has packed up. But I hope, I really do believe actually, I could get on and find myself in a happier state, but I don't think so at the very moment. I'm just wandering. I think of things and then they go away forever."

Bayley returns bearing a tray with a pottery jug of coffee, and to make room we remove another tray smothered in old corks, crisp autumn leaves, several pebbles, old notes, a large stone and some photographs. "Simple but

effective," says Bayley, nodding at the jug as long as you don't mind a few grounds in the mouth!"

"You must pour," says Iris, patting his arm. "You must pour."

"Four? Oh, I thought you meant paw!" And he starts scrabbling at the air as if he's a cat, and we all laugh. Their relationship is not only touching, it's still fresh and young, making sense of what marriage is for. How, I ask, do they spend their days together?

"I've slipped out of the university now," says Iris. "But I do every day try and collect something or other to myself." Then she gives me a beautiful, generous smile. "Your arrival may help me."

"I wouldn't be surprised," says Bayley, spooning two sugars into each mug. "Sometimes pictures start her off. We went to the National Gallery yesterday."

"I do like pictures," says Iris. "We discovered yesterday, didn't we darling, that the thing one must do is go in the Orange Street entrance, because you arrive among just the right sort of pictures to warm you up. Instead of being suddenly confronted with these ghastly old masterpieces, there are some very nice Dutch portraits, charming." He beams at the memory and distributes a packet of McVitie's half-coated digestives.

"One must have the dark chocolate, the milk ones are not the same. Is the coffee all right?" I abandon my list of prepared

questions and ask Bayley about the trilogy he's been writing since he retired. "Oh it's rather frivolous," he says dismissively. "I'm not a natural novelist like Iris. The third one, *George's Lair*, has just come out, but it can't be described as making a big splash."

"Oh it's jolly good," protests Iris loyally. "It's absolutely good."

"It's quiet, narcissistic entertainment for me," he explains hurriedly. "I suppose I might have taken to woolwork!"

I wonder what they make of the current vogue, where just about everyone seems to be writing a novel? "It's partly the new feminists," says Bayley, brandishing his biscuit. "who are, quite rightly, wanting to find out who they are — a faintly ridiculous phrase I know, but there's some truth to it. I had a pupil who said 'I've written a novel to find out who I really am.'"

Dame Iris laughs at this and continues. "Writing means you do catch an insight into your limitations, but [nodding at Iris] I don't think you bother about who you are at all darling. In fact you once said to me you didn't think you had much of an identity!"

"Well yes," she nods. "At present..."

"Your identity goes into your work."

"Writing came immediately to me," says Iris suddenly. "I had a wonderful education. I went to excellent schools [Badminton] where

they knew what was possible. And as time went on, I knew with passion when I finished a novel that I wanted to do the next one."

Then she stops and remarks clearly: "I am in a place from which I am trying to get out."

We all pause, nonplussed, until Bayley eventually breaks the silence by asking me if I have written a novel. I confess gloomily that I haven't.

"It's well worth trying," he says encouragingly.

"Try and find the time," says Iris. "Do Do."

"Henry James found it solitary, but then he would wouldn't he?" Bayley giggles. "He thought you had to make a choice between living and writing. But I'm often struck by how Iris isn't the least bothered about whether she should live or write. And you never seem to mind giving it up for a bit. You did that book on philosophy, I sometimes quite resent that book, because it interrupted the novels."

"Oh I'm at peace with that," says Iris dismissively. "I don't know whether I should write another non-fiction book." She looks at me kindly. "I'm afraid you've arrived in a low situation."

"This is American-style coffee," says Bayley suddenly. "They make it weak over there so they can drink it all the time."

"I don't feel we're getting anywhere," says Iris.

We wander out to the garden, an uproarious spread of wild mint, goldenrod, Michaelmas daisies and some old cut flowers, still in their vases. "I was very lucky," says Iris as Bayley disappears into the kitchen. "I met a man I couldn't say 'no' to, and I couldn't be persuaded to throw him away."

He returns with a flat cap on which he insists on wearing "for without it, I look like Humphrey Dumpty". Despite Dame Iris's current problems, they seem utterly at ease with each other. "We've done all the things we want to, and now we just have a quiet life," says Bayley.

"Actually..." begins Iris. "Yes, you're more restless than me," concedes her husband. And I wonder if they missed having children? "Iris has never shown the slightest interest in being a mum," says her husband.

"And I'm not sure, but you could say you're more restless than me," concedes her husband. And I wonder if they missed having children? "Iris has never shown the slightest interest in being a mum," says her husband.

"As Iris poses obediently for photos, he beckons me over to the kitchen table, where there appear to be two of everything, two honey pots, two mustard pots, two jam pots and seven jars of coffee. "We've been to see doctors you know and they say the old brain's very crafty. It can come up against a block and for a bit things seem a bit strange, but then it finds its way around things again."

the establishment. Its blessing is given to adventures like the Falklands and the Gulf, and it is tied up with the monarchy. So it is hard to see its role as more progressive than that of the Catholic Church, especially since its basic tenets are the same. It is superior only in status — and because its bishops are better fathers.

It may be wrong to assume that all Christians are prone to feelings of superiority, but rest assured that most of the letters provoked by this article will conclude: "above all, we feel sorry for you and are praying for you." The rest will wish me eternal damnation.

In embracing a faith, we seek elevation. All faiths involve believing things that are highly implausible and trying to abide by impossible rules. There are inevitable failures, and those who suffer most are those seeking not only elevation but comfort. For all religions exist to be the opium of the people — except possibly the C of E, which is the paracetamol.

JEREMY HARDY



A wing, a prayer and a quick fix

MEMBERS of the Anglican hierarchy must have spent hands with glee — pretending to be praying if anyone saw. For it has been a bad week for Catholicism, the Church of England's main rival in the market for Christians.

Catholic priests now appear to be largely responsible for the growth of single parenthood in the last two decades.

The C of E can feel fairly confident that it will not face a similar crisis, as there has never been a problem of widespread heterosexuality among the Anglican clergy. Moreover, marriage and children are actively encouraged, especially, Dr Runcie tells us, for those clerics who are not heterosexual.

The C of E therefore seems to be the more progressive denomination, as there are less things you're not allowed to do. And yet, up until recently, not allowing people to do things was the strength of all great religions. Fear and abstinence were guiding

lights. A heavenly father who said, "You kids do what you like, but keep the noise down — I'm trying to watch evolution" just wouldn't have any clout. No doubt the rules were always broken, especially by those implementing them. As with civil government, it has never been considered important that those in charge obey their own rules, or even that their underlings expect them to; the rules simply have to be seen to be there.

A bishop was like a Tory MP, he could be going out with the Household Cavalry, so long as he didn't make a song and dance about it.

But at some time, a spiritual need developed for religions which allow people to do more things, while still feeling religious. New religions, reviled as cults, were set up, many of them requiring only that believers put in a bit of chanting and a lot of their own money. The established religions got really annoyed.

The people pouring most derision on Scientology this week were not the secular-minded but the Christians. Anguished parents told heart-rending stories about losing children to cults. Having been indoctrinated with Christianity all their life, the child then fell victim to "brain-washing techniques".

I have no particular wish to defend Scientology. I know very little about it, apart from the advert, which appeals for "trust" in several languages; "trust" being a word which means charitable status. It's not hard to see its attraction. Scientologists don't believe in God, but believe we are all innately good people who have souls but need a bit of expensive therapy — all of which sounds great to a film star whose life is a little empty.

They also believe in re-incarnation, an idea which has always appealed to those with big egos. If anyone claims to have had a previous existence, it is always as someone famous, never a part-time cleaner at one of the pyramids or a

friend of Michaelangelo's brother. And when they come back in the future, it will be as an eagle or a dolphin, not a tortoise or a slug.

In any event, what a great week for the Church of England, when it appears less hypocritical than the

I grew up believing Jesus was English and that he only ended up being crucified because he didn't like to say anything

Church of Rome and less mental than Scientology. The fact that the C of E shares with Rome a creed which espouses all manner of bizarre propositions, need not inhibit Anglicans from feeling quite pleased with themselves.

To add to the pleasure of the established church, the Welsh have been brought into line on the women priests issue. Catholicism does not accept women priests because Jesus only chose male disciples. I suggest Jesus's rationale was that women would have a harder time believing his rather extravagant claims, having met many men who think they're God's gift.

So Rome, whose priests can neither marry nor be women, looks pretty medieval by comparison with the C of E. Its rules on divorce and birth control don't help. And yet the Catholic Church is still not in the same state of decline as the C of E, probably because it still has more mysticism and more structure. It's a proper, old-time religion; Anglicanism isn't.

I grew up in the Church of England, and it seemed to involve believing Jesus was English and that he only ended up being crucified because he didn't like to say anything. It is, literally, the Church of



Emma and the fondly imagined age of innocence

WE WENT to see Emma the other day and I pondered how sex was not only mentioned, but rarely even implied in Jane Austen. The sight of the gorgeous Gwyneth Paltrow, her Wonderbra heating, her astonishing neck, like Alice after scoffing the bottle marked "Drink Me", must have had Mr Knightley in conniptions. At the moment she accepts his proposal, you know exactly what he must be thinking, and it has nothing to do with companionable evenings reading by the fire.

Mr Knightley is 37 and unmarried. Would he have gone to prostitutes, or pleased himself only with the humble village girls? Or did a lot more of it go on among the middle-classes than anyone wrote about? Writers of every age write about what they believe are fit subjects for literature: for instance, anyone reading many modern British novelists would be astonished to learn that people in late 20th century were sometimes polite to each other.

fore each punchline, then continued well into the next joke. Glowering stares and even straightforward abuse didn't stop the grinning, gibbering politron behind us. The comics themselves got annoyed and started to pick on him. This increased his pleasure and made him laugh louder.

Two teachers wrote that pupils of theirs had excused a sibling's absence by saying, 'He's well ill, Miss'

THANKS for your letters about changing phrases, especially on the use of "well" to intensify adjectives, as in "well happy". Two teachers wrote separately to say that pupils of theirs had excused a sibling's absence by saying, "He's well ill, Miss".

CELIBACY, as some have learned to their cost this week, is a difficult concept. As the Canon pointed out at the start, though others still haven't noticed, it simply means not being married. It doesn't mean abstaining from sex. Thus among the words it has spawned, celibatarian means favouring celibacy, and a celibatic is a person who is a supporter of celibacy. On this basis, as I understand it, Bishop Rodey, for all his adventures, deserves to be classed as a celibate celibatarian celibatic. What he isn't is a celibate.

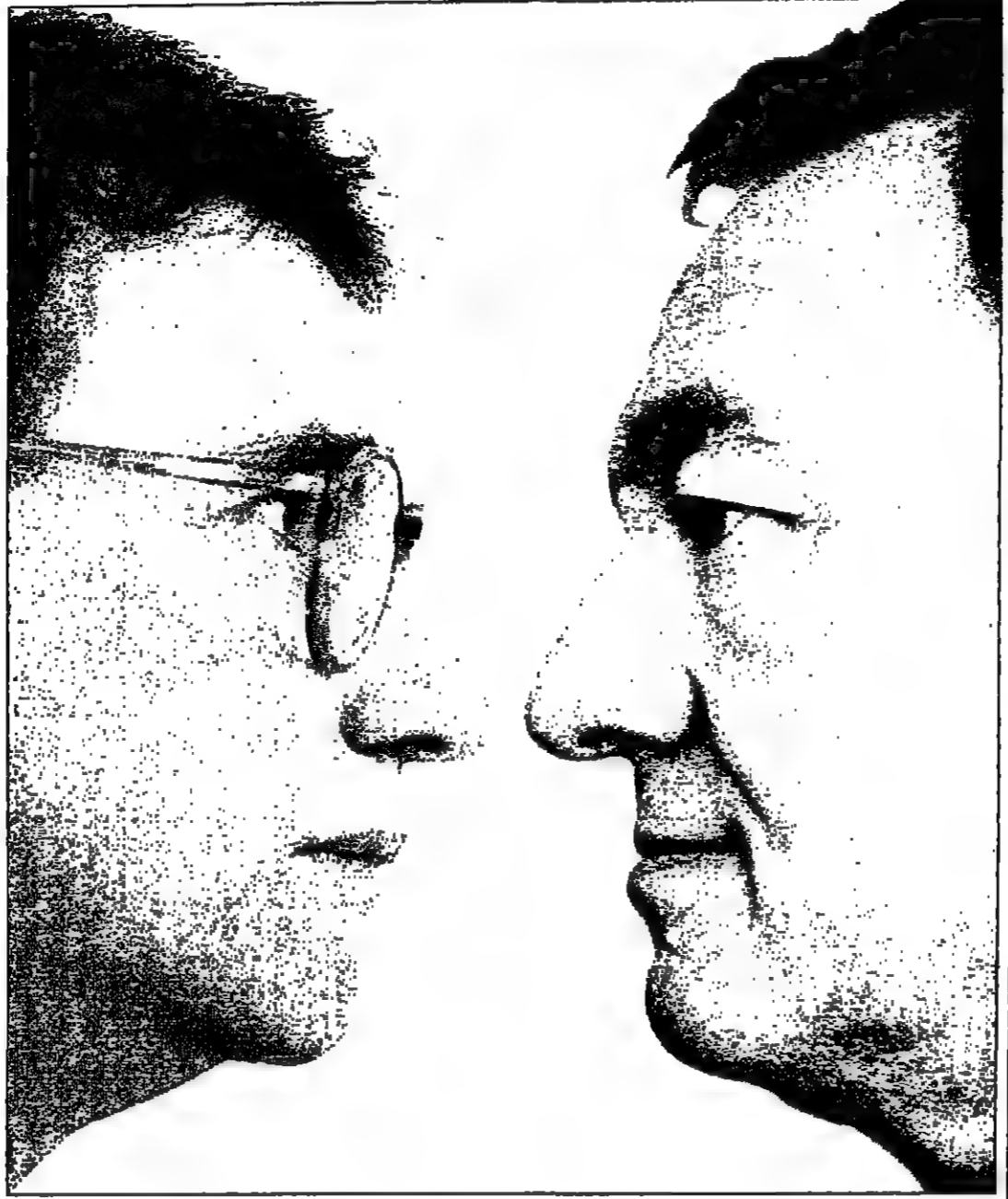
Whose line is it anyway?

Has the Labour leadership become a Stalinist clique? In an exchange of faxes, Ken Livingstone MP calls for power to the people, while Brian Wilson MP says winning the election must come first

Dear Brian,

I HAVE always believed that it is better to be judged politicians by their deeds rather than their words. All the recent talk of democracy in the Labour Party leads me to recall those eastern European regimes that constantly protested their democracy while imprisoning dissidents: true democrats do not have to keep declaring their intentions.

It is ready for a much more radical policy than Labour is proposing. Yet from Kinnock to Blair, their so-called reforms have never been about making Labour acceptable to ordinary voters, their real purpose has been to make Labour acceptable to unaccountable powers—that be both in Britain and internationally.



Best of comrades... Brian Wilson, left, and Ken Livingstone

Dear Ken,

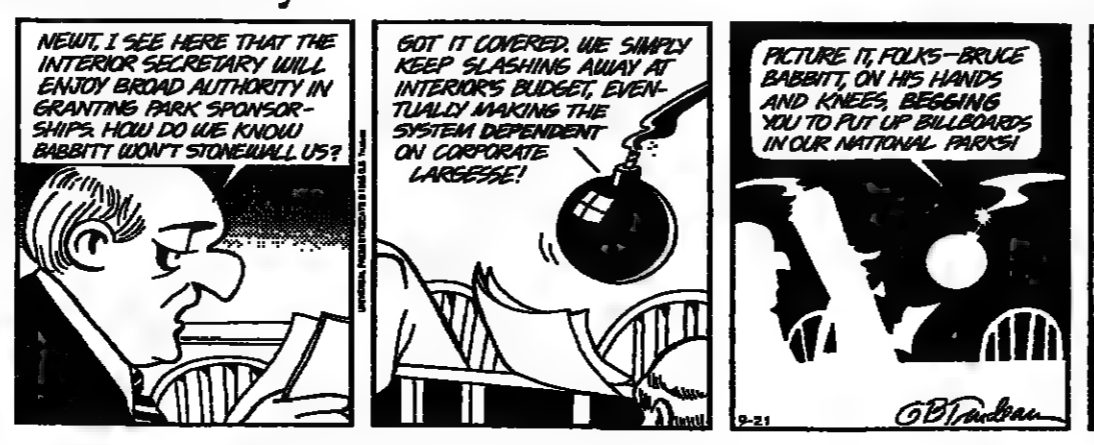
AS YOU so rightly say, democracy is a highly subjective word. You confirm this by adhering with undiminished affection to an era when Labour conferences were dominated by block votes and the general election manifesto was cobbled together at dead of night after the date had been fixed.

unaccountable powers—that be rather than to "ordinary voters". Ken, have you not noticed that we have lost four elections at the hands of "ordinary voters"?

Labour's support halved. Labour wins when it is confident, radical and inspiring to the millions of people who look to us to improve the quality of their lives. If you look at the last election result, you will see that Labour received more votes from the middle classes but less from the working classes than ever before.

Advertisement for The Dogs' Home Battersea MasterCard. It costs you nothing. To a dog it could mean everything. Includes details about the card's benefits and how to apply.

Doonesbury



spend money better, as the electorate — battered by 22 new Tory taxes since 1992 alone — is entitled to expect of us.

Dear Brian,

AS SOMEONE who had responsibility for running the GLC's billion-pound budget, I can assure you it is never easy to call for higher taxes. While I agree with you that income tax on ordinary families is too high, why not honest and say we will increase tax on earnings over £30,000 pa.

SEE THE government minister Ann Widdecombe (a recent Catholic convert, and Smallweed's outside tip, by the way, to manage Manchester City) is being maligned for downplaying this week's revelations. But that is due to her broad historical sweep. No doubt she's been travelling back to Pope Damasus I in 366-369, whose taste for the company of wealthy ladies earned him the nickname "The Matron's Ear-Tickler."

Some of his successors, I fear, did more than tickle ears. Some were openly married, like Felix III (483-492), who was buried alongside his wife and children. Boniface VI (896) had been twice married before he came to the Papacy, once for immorality, but we need not worry too much about him since he died of the gout after 15 days.

Dear Ken, IT'S pretty sterile to keep debating who lost Labour the last four elections. Let's just say that your vision of history and mine are some distance apart.

Far worse was John XII (955-964), imposed by his father Prince Alberic II of Rome when he was just 16. He was still in his early twenties when he suffered a stroke while in bed, it was widely asserted, with a married woman, and died soon after.

Dear Ken,

WHILE I don't claim any monopoly of wisdom about why we have lost four elections, I feel reasonably sure that 1993 didn't give us our worst result since 1981 because the manifesto wasn't left-wing enough!

Dear Ken,

LIKE my children to have a sense of security — a novelist and Sunday Times columnist A G Gill, in an interview for the Relative Values series in that newspaper.

Application form for The Dogs' Home Battersea MasterCard, including fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and Telephone.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Eat drink while you can" and "Who e".

مركزنا للتعليم

Eat, drink, while you can

Richard Thomas detects a healthy dose of cynicism as we splash out again, 1980s style

FRIDAY lunchtime in the heart of the City and the derivatives trader is getting wistful. "In the old days, of course, there would have been lines of St John's Ambulance people outside this wine-bar at the end of the lunchtime drinking session, waiting to scrape us off the floor."

"Still," he admits between sips of champagne, "things could be worse." Indeed the throng of pin-stripes around him reckon things are looking decidedly brighter than just a few months ago.

Retro-hints of the late eighties boom are sprouting everywhere: champagne sales are up by 30 per cent this year, garages are going for £40,000 in Chelsea, the stock exchange is gearing up for a massive 10th birthday party of Big Bang next week, beachhunters are stalking the boardroom again and Tesco is selling kangaroo steak.

The high street is busier than at any time for the last seven years, and consumer confidence is at the highest level since 1988, the year that Nigel Lawson put his potent tax-cut fuel on the economic furnace.

Conspicuous consumption has returned with a vengeance. Chris Drury, manager of upmarket estate agent, Century 21, based in London's Kensington, says the mood of the late eighties property boom is definitely back. "Money

is cheap, prices are going up and the market is moving," he says.

Gasumping is becoming common again. Drury has just seen one property fought over by eight potential purchasers. "The energy and the vigour are there again." He has just sold a small flat to a buyer from the Far East for £300,000.

Eating out is also back in fashion, cigars are in vogue with stylish men and women. Even the Government says booze is good for us.

It is all a far cry from the first half of this decade, heralded as the caring nineties when we would all eat well, exercise more, build family nests and fret about the environment. British Gas's launch last week of a new credit card, with a goldfish logo — said to symbolise this softer, more sedate period — shows how out of touch the firm is with current trends.

Alan Lewis, editor-in-chief of *Eat Soup*, a new magazine aimed at people "who'd rather spend £100 on a meal from Marco Pierre White than on a sawnower," says the early nineties experiment in asceticism was doomed to failure. "We tried it for a couple of years, and decided it was bloody boring," he says. "People aren't embarrassed to spend their money now. We're all a lot more relaxed."

Lewis reckons that *Eat Soup*, whose core belief is that too much of a good thing is wonderful, could soon overtake the 100,000 copies of the BBC Vegetarian magazine. It's a clear sign of the times. Down on Sloane Street, a favourite barometer of consumption trends, the fashion outlet Nicole Farhi, has sensed the shift too. Assistant manager Lisa Bardell says: "People are spending again, and on the pricier end of the range. Young girls supported by their parents, wives funded by rich husbands, career women — they are all splashing out on clothes."

The new hedonism extends to women taking their clothes off, too. The explosion of men's magazines with women in varying degrees of undress is a signal that the political correctness of a few years ago is disappearing along with negative equity.

A newly-opened restaurant in the West End, Sarastro, is boldly



Conspicuous consumption... even the Government says booze is good for us. PHOTOGRAPH: KOPPA MATTHEWS

Spend, spend, spend



"Our sales have been up for the last two years. It's a buyer's market. Our prices range from about £22,000 for a lined garden pool in the suburbs to about

£150,000 for an indoor pool in, say, Mayfair."

Tony Linc, the London Swimming Pool Company Limited

"Business is up 30 per cent in both private and business sectors. There's been a steady increase in business marking a climb out of recession — the future is looking promising."

Bernard de Satis, Gastronomie's, private caterers

"Our sales are steady and very good, not booming like the eighties, but very stable. At the end of the eighties people started drinking Per-



rier and stopped smoking. But now the cigars are coming back out. Our made-to-measure shirts start at £100 each."

Simon Hobbs, Turnbull & Asser bespoke tailors

"Yes sales are climbing nicely. The feelgood factor is creeping back cautiously. Beluga Caviar is £1,700 a kilo."

Suzie Boeckmann, The Cavalier House

decked out like a Roman-Egyptian-Victorian brothel. Diners sit with a reclining nude behind them, and a mummy with enormous and curved phallus to the side, presumably in an attempt to distract them from the food, which is horrible.

But the City boys certainly welcome the new openness. They spend their lunchtimes entertaining ordinary reserved clients in strip bars and their evenings in places like Bar Etrusca — dubbed Bar Orgasm, or by the less sophisticated, Bar Spunk (for reasons too sordid to record).

"All that politically correct nonsense has gone, thank God," says one reveler. "It's party time again." Even though the glass-throwing days of the 1980s are gone, the rowdiness index is creeping up. "The women aren't about to be left out. Their answer to the racks of laddish mens magazine is *Minx*, which shouts about: "Life: Enjoying it, grabbing it by the throat, lusting after it."

This is the crucial difference between 1986 and 1988: Then, the collective splurge was driven by economics, now the rationale is one of partying in the face of adversity.

In the late 1980s, wages were soaring, unemployment was tumbling, house prices were growing by 20 per cent a year, and borrowing was at an all-time high. Today, the growth of pay packets is a measly 3.75 per cent a year and the dole queue is shrinking painfully slowly. The biggest difference is the absence of inflation this economic upturn is the first since the 1920s, when growth has not been accompanied by rising prices.

Jonathan Loynes, an economist at City brokers HSBC Markets, says there are almost no economic parallels with the last recovery. "That was a real boom," he says. "This time we are seeing a boomlet at the most."

But Loynes says there's a danger that the Government will misread the headline images of a yuppie renaissance as a re-run of the late 1980s, and impose an unnecessary period of austerity. Because the wounds of the 1980s boom-and-bust are still fresh, a workaday economic upturn could be dressed up as another credit-fueled period of madness. Because the party got out of hand last time, they might close this one down before it gets going.

Fortunately it is unlikely to happen soon. Although the Bank of England would love to call a halt, the Treasury will not put the brakes on by raising the cost of borrowing or taxes. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, has his eyes on the impending election.

"Putting up interest rates would be political suicide," says Loynes. "We are just not in the same boat as last time around."

Ten years ago, the champagne-swillers were celebrating the fact that things could only get better: now they are getting the fizz in while they can, because things can only get worse. In the 1980s, the cigar-smoking, red-meat eating, nude-ogling is more a realisation that such prosperity is a pipe-dream.

Geoff Mulgan, head of the independent think-tank Demos, says there is a new attitude to excess. "From 40-year-old women going to the Chippendales to 15-year-old girls taking 'E', the acceptability of hedonism has grown."

He says the brief detour into self-denial in the first part of the 1980s belied a longer-term trend towards making consumption as conspicuous as possible. "The 1980s puritanism was clearly not deeply based. As soon as we have any money, we start throwing it around again."

Focus groups of young people show that, for the first time ever,

they expect to have a lower quality of life than their parents, and are not banking on a pension or NHS care in their old age. But instead of deciding to squirrel cash away to guard against these eventualities, we are blowing it instead.

"It is a completely irrational, though entirely human, reaction," says Mulgan. In the 1980s, we thought we were in control and it went horribly wrong. Today we assume in advance that everything will go horribly wrong; and so down our sorrows in advance. We are becoming a more fatalistic society."

So the only escape is in the hands of the Gods, or Camelot — the success of the national lottery, he says, is a stark symptom of the fatalistic nineties. Even the over-reported rise in job insecurity feeds into the current mood. For each person who reacts to the daily threat of a P45 by taking out insurance policies, saving their pennies and keeping their noses clean, there is at least one who blows the whole of their pay-cheque (and then a bit on alcohol, cigarettes and drugs).

Two of the City liquid-lunchers are on short-term contracts in a

Ten years ago, the champagne-swillers were celebrating the fact that things could only get better: now they are getting the fizz in while they can

bucket-shop share dealer, trading low-value stocks. They are busy getting as drunk as possible before going back to their current workplace. They are so blasé about their jobs that they urge the printing of their hated boss's name in the paper. Mr Kent, apparently.

But there are at least some people holding out against the new devil-may-care culture, people who are defining themselves in other ways than the amount of champagne quaffed or type of cars driven. The US trend towards "down-shifting" — swapping a well-paid but shallow job for a poorer but more fulfilling life — has spread across the Atlantic.

So society is becoming fragmented into two parts: in the first camp, the hedonists, in the second, the recyclers, and the poor. This is certainly true of the property upturn, which the big lenders reckon will push up prices by 5 per cent this year and 8 per cent in 1987.

In the heady days under Margaret Thatcher, wardrobe-sized flats on busy roads were being snapped up. As Drury says: "Back then people were buying absolutely anything. Today's boom is a bit more sophisticated — the good stuff at the top and middle-layers are going fast, but the lower end is still pretty quiet. And the bad boys are simply being ignored."

Even in the City wins bar the gulf is recognised. Pouring himself another glass of bubbly, the nostalgic trader agrees that life is fundamentally unfair. "If I have a good year, I can wipe out any negative equity or debt. But if you're a teacher, you can have the best year of your life and it doesn't make a jot of difference, does it?"

Who else was out to get Amin?

In the week that we learned of Harold Wilson's secret plan to assassinate Idi Amin, Giles Foden reveals the lucky breaks that kept the Ugandan dictator alive



The former President for Life as seen by Gibbard

IN THE middle of 1976, President Amin was due to attend a police review. By that time the murderous excesses of his reign were well known internationally and his safety in public was considered uncertain. Consequently, he had nervously changed the venue of the review four times, eventually settling on Nsambya Police Recreation Ground. The date was June 10.

He sat in the covered stand, a figure as inflated as his official title: President For Life Field Marshal Al Badji Dr Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea, Last King of Scotland, Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular. On these occasions, he usually wore a full complement of medals, including a special Victoria Cross made up by the London jewellers, Spinks, with his own image replacing the British Lion.

When the review was over, Amin and the various ministers and army officers retired to a reception nearby. But after only three-quarters of an hour, perhaps still nervous, he set off for State House at Entebbe, a few miles from the capital of Uganda, Kampala. The sun was going down as the dignitaries, watched by the crowds, made their way to their army jeeps and Mercedes Benz limousines.

Amin liked to drive himself, usually in dark glasses. He took the wheel of the open jeep, telling his driver to move over, and swung towards the gates where more crowds were in place to cheer him.

As Amin turned out on to the main road, there were two explosions in quick succession. There was smoke and a faint rain of debris. Then two shots rang out. One of the dignitaries, according to Henry Kyemba, minister of health

at the time, said, "They have got him".

The first grenade, it later emerged, had exploded where Amin would have been sitting, had he not taken the driver's seat. It shredded one of the front tyres and — an X-ray later showed — forced an inch-long, needle-like splinter into the driver's brain.

The moment after the blasts was pandemonium. Amin, opening his briefcase, took out a grenade himself, "ready to pull out the pin with his teeth and toss it over his shoulder", as Kyemba recalls. Then he sped off to take the driver to hospital.

The driver died. Amin survived. On his orders, troops flooded Kampala. Citizens were killed and beaten. No one ever found the true culprits.

Harold Wilson, it now appears, was willing if not able to assassinate Amin. The British Prime Minister had decided that enough was enough, at a time when Amin's thugs were said to be killing 1,000 people a day. In a television documentary to be screened tomorrow (BBC2, 8.10pm) his press secretary Joe Haines reveals how Wilson ordered the assassination of Amin in 1974-75. He called Haines into his office and said, "We are going to have to kill Idi Amin. How do we set about doing this?" — only to be told by the Foreign Office that they were "very much against it" and didn't have field operatives capable of such activities.

Wilson resigned on March 16 1976, by which time an assassination plan might well have been in place, had he succeeded in organising one. Already, in early 1975, a car in Amin's convoy had been forced off the road in a botched attempt on his life: it was the wrong car, and Amin was unhurt.

The irony was that it was the British who had established Amin

in the first place, tipping the wink at his ousting of Milton Obote in 1971. Former CIA agents report that Britain and the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad actually planned the coup with Amin, though this is unproven.

The British later began to realise their error. In one way or another, they had to take steps against this Frankenstein they had created, having provided the former sergeant in the colonial King's African Rifles with vast amounts of military aid and training during the first half of his brutal tenure, which lasted until 1979 and claimed up to half a million lives.

But they were slow about it. Even after Amin threw out the British High Commissioner, Richard Slater, following British protests about the expulsion of the Ugandan Asians in 1972, diplomatic relations were maintained, right up to the Israeli "Raid on Entebbe" in July 1976.

Other governments also saw in Amin a useful foreign policy tool. The deadly nexus of 1970s Cold War and Arab-Israeli conflict had turned the beautiful country Churchill had called "the Pearl of Africa" into a strategic counter in world power-play.

WHAT worried the British was that not long before Amin's coup Obote had announced a "Common Man's Charter", aligning himself with the pro-Soviet or Maoist Frontline states of Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. Apart from Kenya, it seemed that the British would now have few friends in Central Africa. Why not rely instead on trusty old Amin, whom in the old colonial days British soldiers had hit on the head (some say with hammers) before army rugby games "to get him

Amin, though, turned out to be a murderous buffoon whom none of them could control. This was a man whose security staff used sledgemen to smash the skulls of prisoners, not to mention Amin's obsession with witchcraft. His bizarre fictional world turned *realpolitik* into a Punch and Judy show — what hope then of sensible policy?

The comedy and the corpses (and with Amin these are inextricably, grotesquely linked) would have indeed been limited had Wilson had his way and there been a successful assassination attempt. As it was, Amin's reign of terror continued until he was deposed by a Tanzanian invasion in 1979.

When asked if he dreamed that people were trying to kill him, he said: "I dreamed, but it was impossible. They couldn't do it. Because I know, I dreamed that, I know that exactly when, how and what time I am going to die. This I know. And which year and which date. All this I know already and it is a secret... I have said this clear... And I know exactly that, who will be making something against me. Very soon, I can notice him straight and he can get punishment from God straight. Because I work only according to the God's instructions."

Today, he is a devout Muslim. He has slimmed down and dropped his habit of drinking brandy with handfuls of spirrins. He has only one wife and swims daily from his coastal villa in Saudi Arabia.

Apart from cutting off his phone because the bill was too large, the gracious government there seems happy to be his host. After all, rather than that other former British protégé, Saddam Hussein.

Giles Foden's novel about Idi Amin, *The Last King of Scotland*, will be published by Faber and Faber

Longitude

Tomorrow, free with every copy. A special edition of the No 1 bestseller

'The book of choice among the time-conscious chattering classes.' Robert McGrum

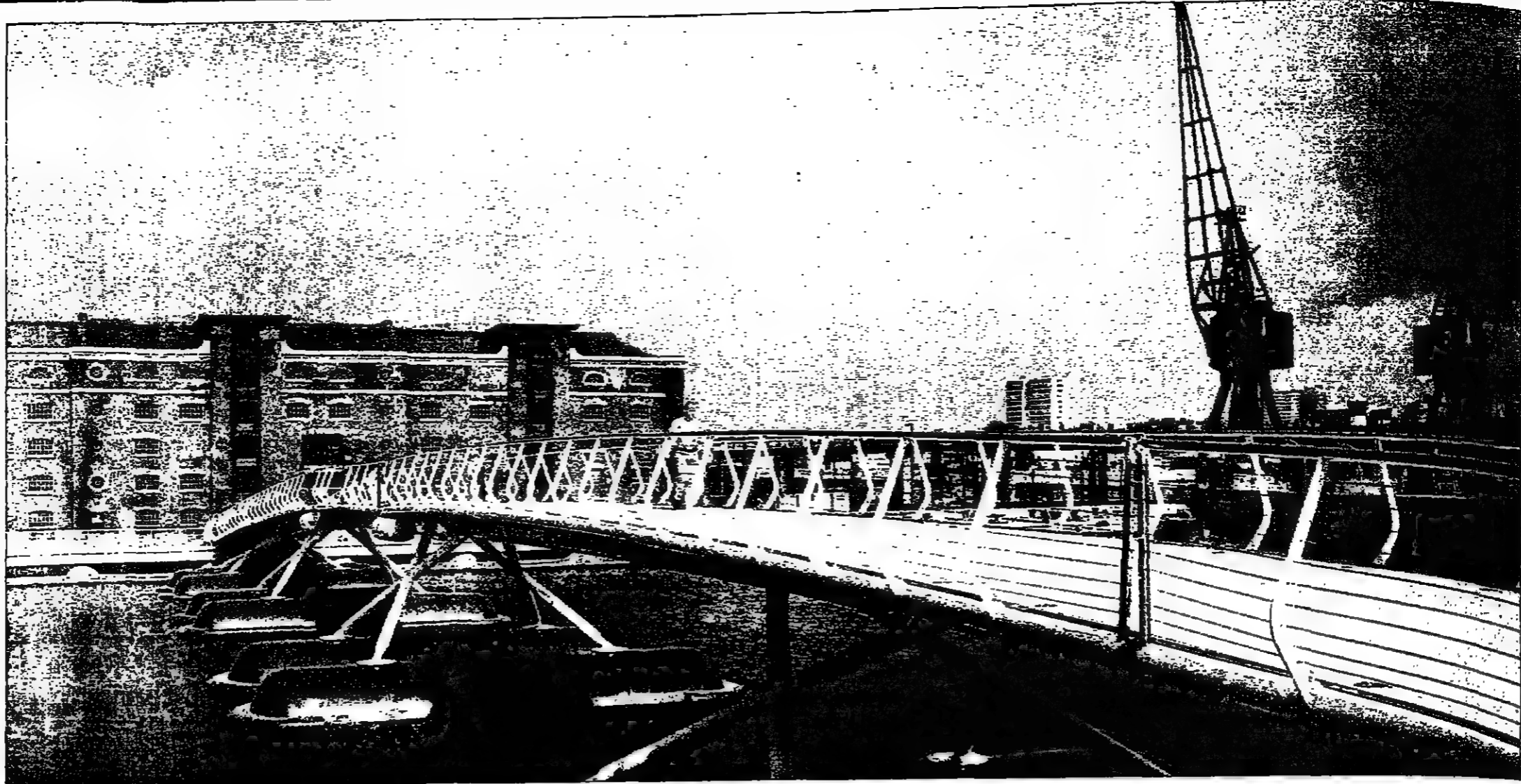
'A true-life thriller, jam-packed with political intrigue, international warfare and personal feuds.' Francis Wheen

'Exceptionally good. A fascinating tale.' The Sunday Telegraph

'Engrossing and elegantly crafted.' The Sunday Times

The Observer

arts



The Royal Academy's doing it, Norman Foster's doing it, even John Gummer is showing interest. **Deyan Sudjic** accounts for an outbreak of...

Bridge mania

DESPITE Norman Foster's headline-hogging attempt to push the essentially egotistical architecture of the sky-scraper to centre stage of the design agenda of the 90s, the authentic motif of our times may yet turn out to be the humble bridge.

The bridge is a powerful symbol of positive intentions; shining good deed in a wicked world. It's the way that countries meet each other on equal terms, as in the case of Foster's own recent commission to design a bridge linking France with Spain. And it brings areas within cities together too.

Not since the 18th century has London seen such a feverish rush to throw bridges across the Thames. For the first time since the completion of Waterloo Bridge half a century ago, there is a real chance that central London will see the building of a rash of new river crossings. They are crossings that promise to alter not just how central London looks, but how it works. Combine all the proposed new bridges with the revitalisation of Southwark and the Bermondsey that is already well under way, and the 200-year-old inferiority complex of the South Bank could finally evaporate.

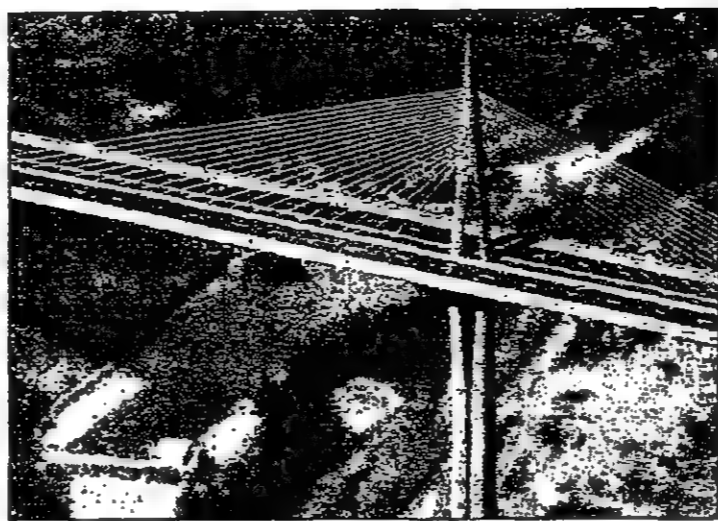
Some of these bridges have as much to do with symbolism as with providing a practical response to functional needs. It is as if the architectural profession is taking the allegedly caring shaggy nineties seriously and using the bridge as a chance to make the conspicuous amends for the excesses of the rip-roaring eighties. Office block is virtually a term of abuse, but nobody objects to the idea of a new bridge. It's like motherhood and apple pie. And for the architect, designing a bridge has the additional advantage that, though it is seen as just as socially worthy as building an old people's home, there is no need for him or

her to curb the wilder flights of creative exhibitionism.

Astonishingly, even John Gummer has embraced the idea of recreating Old London Bridge in a contemporary form. He wants to build an inhabited bridge, linking the National Theatre with the Temple Garden, just south of the Aldwych. More immediately practical than Gummer's dream is the plan for a new pedestrian crossing at Hungerford Bridge. There is also a competition underway to design a high-profile footbridge to link the Tate Gallery's Museum of Modern Art at Bankside with St Pauls. And Will Alsop, working with the artist Bruce McLean and the engineer Tony Hunt, has a startling scheme to build a replacement for the ICA on a sensational steel and glass bridge that would cascade across the river at Blackfriars, in effect creating a new public space that is neither north nor south of the river.

This outbreak of bridge mania comes to a peak next week when the Royal Academy opens its spectacular exhibition on the history of the inhabited bridge, which will show many of these proposals. The Academy has created a river which runs through its classical rooms. At one end is a handsome scale model of Old London Bridge — described by one contemporary as "adorned with sumptuous buildings and stately beautiful houses inhabited by wealthy citizens, comparable in itself to a little city". At the other are seven designs which attempt to recreate this ancient form, commissioned by the Royal Academy on Gummer's behalf.

Alongside these designs, the Academy's exhibition, beautifully designed by Nigel Coates, shows great bridges both built and unbuilt, from the Ponte Vecchio in Florence with its corridors linking the Pitti Palace with the Uffizi, to the single span Rialto Bridge in Venice, an engineering triumph of its time.



From top... Future Systems' design at Wren's Landing, Canary Wharf; Norman Foster's plan for a bridge to link France and Spain; and Ian Ritchie's entry for Thames Water's habitable bridge competition, which will be shown in the Royal Academy's Living Bridges exhibition

More recently the bridge has been a focus for regular outbursts of visionary speculation, from William Holden's fanciful proposal to replace Tower Bridge with a Futurist-looking Crystal Bridge, to Meinikov's Constructivist suggestion to span the Seine with a 1,000-car garage.

While the Academy is showing a range of bridges that may or may not be built, at Canary Wharf a newly opened pontoon structure demonstrates the positive effect a bridge can have. Designed by Future Systems, the bridge is a convincing demonstration of new life in this once blighted development, linking its central area to previously isolated warehouses.

It's not hard to see why bridges get a better press than skyscrapers. The race to build high comes across as a somewhat simple-minded quest for a virility symbol. The bridge, on the other hand — when it is not saddled with egregious toll charges — can be presented as an optimistic, even altruistic gesture. To build a bridge is the most constructive of metaphors. In practice the bridge can indeed have the ability to tie cities together. It offers a chance to see cities from a different perspective. It creates public space of a unique kind, a viewing point, as well as a route, the tangible evidence of a link that needs to be emotional as well as physical. It provides a direct relationship with water. Indeed, the bridge is one of the few building types whose charms the 20th century has not managed to completely extinguish.

The surprise is that bridge building — certainly in the urban context — has had such a low profile in Britain since the completion of the giant suspension structures across the Forth, the Severn and the Humber that characterised the sixties and seventies. Perhaps the vacuum was something to do with cut-backs in public investment. But it was also a reflection of a shift in attitudes among the people who actually design bridges. The great 19th century engineers always saw the bridge as a chance to show off their skills. Brunel and Eiffel devised structures which demonstrate clearly just how much of an achievement it is to span wide stretches of water. They looked for slenderness, and the minimum of material. And they produced dynamic, soaring bridges that still stand as a triumphant assertion of the ability of their designers to rise to the challenge of the landscape. In the seventies and eighties, the engineers hung up their top hats and their cigars and the

rules of the game were changed. Instead of showing with muscular laudness every stress and strain involved in carrying a load across a void, arches atrophied into anorexic, flat beams. The successful bridge came to be seen as the one with the least demonstrative structure. Engineers went out of their way to make bridges that give the impression that nothing special is going on.

The great engineers celebrated the act of crossing; their successors denied that process — just as railway stations once celebrated the act of arrival and departure, while the contemporary airport is little more than a shopping centre alongside a parking lot for jumbos.

The extent to which the world has rediscovered the older meaning of the bridge owes a great deal to the work of the Spanish engineer and architect Santiago Calatrava in Barcelona and Seville in the run up to the Olympics and Expo of 1992. Calatrava went back to the first principles of bridge design, devising new ways of giving them the strength and stability they need with the minimum of material. Though based on mathematical principles and analysis, Calatrava's bridges have the organic look of naturally occurring forms — they suggest animal skeletons, or plant structures. And they make it clear that engineering can be an emotional and romantic process, as well as a strictly pragmatic one.

A Calatrava bridge has become a trophy for ambitious cities eager to put themselves on the international map — both Manchester and Glasgow have worked with him. But Calatrava has also opened the way for others. Future Systems' new floating pontoon bridge is an acknowledgment that Canary Wharf is no longer just an artificial enclave of urbanity sealed against the East End in a self-contained bubble of its own atmosphere. Bit by bit, Canary Wharf is becoming a real place, one that it is possible to explore in a personal way. The bridge demonstrates that this is now a slice of authentic city, not just a backdrop for corporate headquarters. In the shadow of Skidmore Owings and Merrill's improbable evocation of a 1900 Chicago skyscraper it stands — in acid green tubular steel — The address, a touch optimistically, is Wren's Landing. But there is something about the delicacy of this bridge that does indeed remind you Wren was a mathematician, and not mean hand at designing bridges himself. Living Bridges runs from Sept 26 to Dec 16 at the Royal Academy, London.

SHOOTING STARS



RISING: SUE TILLEY

Up... DHSS employee Sue Tilley is suggested to subject-hungry painter Lucien Freud by her friend, the performance artist and artist's model Leigh Bowery. Freud, in a flurry of brushstrokes, produces *Benefit Supervisor Resting* — a corpulent nude kipping on a cosy couch.

Up... A year later, in 1994, Freud exhibits his newest works among the old masters at the Dutch Picture Gallery. "Big Sue" hangs between Rubens' *Venus, Mars and Cupid* and Leys' *Nymphs By A Fountain*, and grabs more attention than those fading favourites combined.

Away... The zenith of any model's ambition is attained. Sue the supervisor appears — in all three of the artist's studios of her — in a glossy new compendium of Freud's work, to grace coffee-tables everywhere.



FALLING: FREDERICK FORSYTH

Going... Pens Day Of The Jackal in 35 days, and sets off on his thrilling journey to become one of the first film-rights millionaires. **Going...** Retires. Only joking. Farming doesn't pay school fees. Returns to the typewriter. No joy from planned remake of *Jackal* — he flogged the rights 23 years ago. **Gene...** His tenth novel, *Icon*, is penned in the press. He's dismissed by *Private Eye* as "The man who knows. But knowledge does not make novels". Announces his intention to retire again. He finds writing more soporific these days than counting sheep on his Hertfordshire estate.

The V&A's decision to introduce an admission charge will cost us all dear, says **Julian Spalding**

How to commit curatorial suicide

Provocations

IN 1985 I went to see Sir Roy Strong to try to persuade him not to introduce charges at the V&A. He was dismissive: "Welfare-state culture," he told me, "is a thing of the past." But at that point he only introduced a voluntary charge. Now, on October 1, full charges are to be introduced — £5 per visitor (£3 concession).

There are those who think that charging at our museums and galleries is inevitable. I'm not one of them. I believe it must not happen if our museums are to flourish. The plain truth is that the average fall in visitor numbers after charging is introduced is about 40 per cent. Some charging museums claim they have regained their audiences after three to five years. But compare visitor numbers at the charging Science or National History Museums and at the free British Museum, National Gallery and the Tate: attendances at the free ones are more than double those at the charging ones. Just as important as the decline in numbers is the change in the audience. The less well-off, those who live further away and those who want to pop in regularly to see just a few things, depart: and in come the tourists, better-off locals and specialists who, through

professional connections, find ways of not paying at all.

I well remember the arguments for charging. Sir Neil Cossons was the most persistent and articulate. He introduced charging at the National Maritime Museum before going on to do the same at the Science Museum. He argued that museums had become "simplifiers" to because they were subsidised by the state and charging would make them focus more on their visitors. People pay for what they want.

There have been improvements in these museums since charging was introduced — popular displays and hands-on activities for children. But the Science Museum had, long ago, a world-famous interactive children's gallery which inspired the American versions on which the Science Museum's latest *Launched* is based. What has really changed are the numbers of chauffeur-driven cars lined up in South Kensington waiting to collect the kids after the museum's activities have finished.

In cost to the public purse, there is very little difference between a charging and a free museum. It costs a lot to look after our historic treasures and to make them safely accessible to the public so that they live again in people's imaginations. No museum I know of in the



world breaks even, let alone makes a profit. All are subsidised by the state. The taxpayer subsidised each visit to the V&A by £14 before they introduced a voluntary charge. Afterwards, each visit cost us £4. Because the attendances fell by so much.

National Museums are for everyone's benefit, but they're beginning to act as if our collections, which they look after, actually belong just to them. If they charge, they inevitably become part of the tourist industry. I'm not against tourists, but the past becomes a sham if it is only preserved for them. This is a world-wide problem: how to become international while sustaining one's own culture. Museums have a key role to play here, but they'll only do it if they're free.

When we opened our new St

Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art in Glasgow in 1993, we discovered we'd created a new type of public space. In this space, followers of different faiths communicate their beliefs and concerns to each other and to a wider public.

That is why, when faced with the terrible cuts we have had to make this year (10 per cent off a £1.5m budget — in one go), we have chosen to close Glasgow's museums one day a week rather than charge. Charging would be suicide. We'd lose many of our local visitors, particularly the less advantaged. We'd lose the support of the politicians who represent them. Even our friends in the tourist board are against charging. They think our free museums are excellent for marketing. Scotland needs "all day family leisure activities" (somewhere to go when it's wet).

The director of the Louvre once told me that the sad thing was that he couldn't get the people of Paris to come to the Louvre. The people of London go to the National Gallery and the British Museum and to the Tate. The introduction of charges at the V&A that Sir Roy Strong set in train a decade ago is a diminution of this great tradition. It's time we cleared the field of the charging knights. Julian Spalding is the director of the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow.

ROBERT LEPAGE
National Theatre makes his eagerly awaited return to the National with the complete seven-part cycle

The Seven Streams of the River Ota

Completed by Robert Lepage and Philip Miller

Experience a new production of an epic fable of the 16th century, when the young King Henry VIII, developed over the past three years and now complete in its seven sections, it unfolds a narrative across three continents and six seasons.

Lytton Theatre, Today (tomorrow, Sat 28 & Sun 29) Sept at 2.45pm (complete show - 6 minutes) and 7pm (including intervals). Wed 1st & Fri 27 Sept at 7pm (from Oct 1, Times 28 Sept at Lytton 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, 12.30pm, 2.45pm)

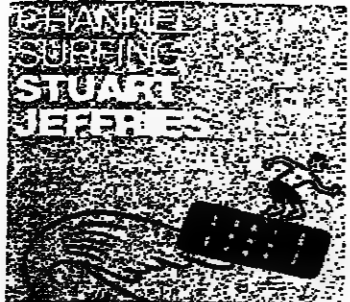
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Cold comfort

lots to beef about

The w London R

مركزان التحصيل



Cold comfort

THE most interesting thing about Caroline In The City (Channel 4) was the fridge. There were probably all sorts of things inside... Norwegian flags, Captain Oakes's preserved corpse...

ment of space, though, are fundamental. There was once a whole episode of Ellen about buying a new sofa, and for half an hour we agonised with the flatmates...

Michael Billington is mesmerised by Harold Pinter's new play, Ashes To Ashes

Poet of darkness

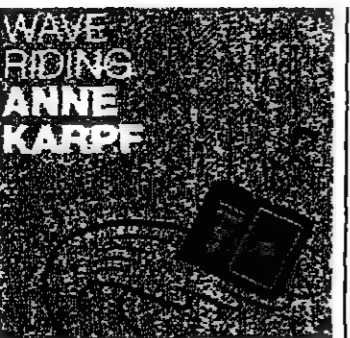
The triumph

A NEW Pinter play is always an event doubly so in the case of Ashes To Ashes, which takes place in the re-located Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. A beguiling wraparound 140-seat space has been created from the circle of the old Ambassadors...



Outstanding performances in an outstanding play... Stephen Rea and Lindsay Duncan

woman whose baby was snatched from her arms in an icy street she takes on her identity. Devlin, meanwhile, for all his invocations of God and moral duty slowly adopts the persona of the fascist lover.



Lots to beef about

THE GREAT taboo of our times isn't connected with sex or death - it's the taboo against admitting how exorcisingly life-threateningly boring the news can be.

Secretary that those people spouting what Hurd had called rubbish about the EC belonged to his own party. Clarke has a strong, jolly voice, and uses it to clarify and doggedly elucidate.

Take me home



Next Big Thing? Dan, from Tiger

The slog

BRITPOP? Yesterday's news. What we want now, according to those who know, is C96. This is the NME's catchy term for a cluster of new, mostly young, bands linked by the determination to do it themselves.

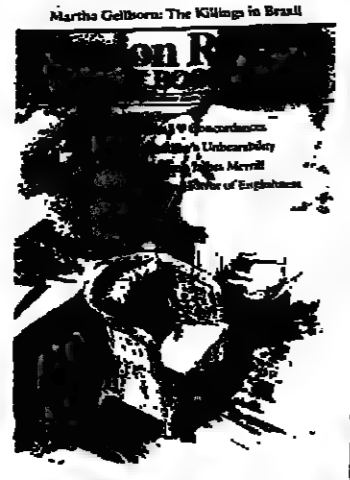
many visits to unventilated pub back rooms, the biggest of the indie, Sub Pop, arranged the Camden Crawl - one night, six stages, 30 bands. A wristband and map were provided; it was then up to the punter to make his own way from the Dublin Castle half a mile north to the Monarch and the other venues sandwiched between.

After Britpop, C96. Caroline Sullivan runs a marathon of new music in north London. The beauty of the idea was obvious early on, while watching Dweeb at the Monarch.

Book of the Week

Advertisement for 'Understanding Virginia Woolf' by Hermione Lee. Includes a small portrait of Virginia Woolf and details about the book's availability and price.

The whole truth, nothing but the truth... in the London Review of Books



'Trench explained that I had a "choice": the cane, with trousers on; or the strap, with trousers off. There was no choice, really, though Trench enormously enjoyed watching me make it.' Paul Foot

the 'sensuous fingering of his pupils' buttocks before and during the interminable beatings'. The London Review of Books aims to deflate the pompous, while seeking the real issues in the headlines.

Subscription form for The Guardian. Includes fields for name, address, telephone, and payment details. Also includes a small logo for 'THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND'.

Motor Racing

Schumacher catches fire at Ferrari and clears the road ahead that leads to the promised land

Alan Henry hears from the Messiah of Maranello about the rise in the team's fortunes and why he has no fear of Damon Hill

MICHAEL Schumacher sat in the Ferrari motor home at Estoril this week and beamed with delight as he recounted an early verdict on his driving ability. "I remember when somebody gave me the opportunity to test a Formula Ford car," he laughs, "and he said, 'The guy is very quick in karting but he will never be quick in a Formula car because the driving style is so different.' I think he was a little bit wrong there."

Quite an achievement for a lad from modest surroundings who, little more than 18 years ago, was scrambling round a kart circuit in the German town of Kerpen where his mother ran the hamburger stand.

For Ferrari, Schumacher's arrival is a lifeline to that of a grand prize Messiah, the famous Maranello team believe that this is the man who can

"The Ferrari organisation has improved a lot. You see the situation now with Benetton where, in getting new drivers, it takes a certain time until everything adapts. I think those times are over for us at Ferrari, but there are still certain things that need to be done before we are at the level of top teams like Williams and Benetton."

year. But I never lost my confidence in the team. Probably that is because I am still young. Maybe in 10 years' time I would have come into the pits under similar circumstances."

"Nevertheless I think he has done a good job. There is definitely a certain pressure from having the best car; everyone expects you to win. So therefore it should be quite interesting for him to go elsewhere next year in order to prove what is his real position."

"It was the same with me: being in Benetton for four and a half years, a lot of people spoke about my talent, but obviously they were more confident about myself after I drove for a different team [Ferrari]."

Tennis

Euro-Africa Zone, Group Two play-off: Great Britain v Egypt

Rusedski serves notice of intent

Stephen Bierley at Wimbledon

DAVID Rusedski's performance in the Wimbledon play-off against Egypt was a surreal game of tennis in a London park without a ball. A similar illusory feeling existed at Wimbledon yesterday.

Today Neil Broad and Mark Petchey should wrap up the tie with a doubles win. This will take Britain into Group One, where the opposition will be altogether tougher but the prize is an ultimate place among the world's top 16 teams in 1998.

Henman's opponent was the 32nd-ranked Amir Ghomelin. After the US Open the British No. 1 took a complete rest and began practicing again only last Monday. Initially there was not the least sign of rustiness as he won the first set 6-4.

Weekend fixtures

- Football fixtures: Arsenal v Liverpool, Manchester United v Tottenham, etc.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

- Football fixtures: Bradford v Bolton, Grimsby v Oxford, etc.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

- Football fixtures: Aberdeen v Hibernian, Celtic v Dunfermline, etc.

English League

- Football fixtures: Barnet v Brentford, Boreham Wood v Dagenham, etc.

English League

- Football fixtures: Boreham Wood v Dagenham, Dagenham v Boreham Wood, etc.

Results

- Football results: Arsenal 2-0 Liverpool, Manchester United 1-0 Tottenham, etc.

Chess

- Chess results: Kasparov 3-1 Karpis, Anand 2-1 Short, etc.

Hockey

- Hockey results: Canada 3-1 USA, Czech Republic 2-1 Russia, etc.



David determination... Tim Henman serves out for a singles win that gave Britain a 3-0 lead

Hockey

Atkins quits at top

Pat Rowley

THE 11-year international career of Jill Atkins, Britain's Olympic team captain, is over. The 33-year-old defender, who won Olympic bronze four years ago and European gold in 1991, has told the England coach Maggie Sonyave that she will not be continuing for a place at next year's World Cup qualifier in Zimbabwe.

Advertisement for Ascot Racecourse, featuring 'Festival at Ascot' and 'Ascot Racecourse, Ascot, Berks'.

Advertisement for 'Jolly Jolits' featuring a stylized logo and text.

Catterick

Table with race times and names for Catterick.

Don't lose heart in sprint. Colgate Good to firm. Donkeys Minkars.

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Racing

Carson sustains liver injury from filly's kick

Willie Carson is stable but not critical... A body scan revealed that the capsule of the liver has had internal bleeding but this stopped by itself.

He was last in the wars back in July when crashing off Mubhai after the horse broke its leg at Newmarket.

Carson was taken to the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke following the incident that preceded the Polygon Monster Collection Filles Stakes.

Carson suffered the injury as he was about to mount the unraced filly Meshed when she veered round and lashed out with her near-hind leg.

Mervyn Rees, consultant liver surgeon at the hospital, said: "Examination revealed that the horse had inflicted an lacerated injury to his liver. He is in a stable, but not critical condition."

Double Splendour seldom runs a bad race and in his last two outings has come up against the rapidly improving Classics Open.

Carson who has been champion five times, has experienced a difficult season that has yielded just 53 victories, few big-race triumphs at home and a spell of injury.

Today's big race is the Led-

Newbury card with form guide for televised races

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Hockey Atkins quits at top



Wolverhampton (A.W.)

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Market Rasen (N.H.)

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Carlisle (N.H.)

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS ON PAGE 20

Good profit... RACINE... 0930 168+

Good HAND landed a £20,000 gamble for pub owner Jim Hughes with a neck victory in the Robert Weyer Motors Handicap at Ayr yesterday.

RACINE advertisement with logo and contact information.

STIRRING EUROPEAN RECOVERY AT ST PIERRE

Davies runaway win leads Solheim pairs fightback

David Davies at Chepstow sees the US reined in after an ominously dominant start

AT LUNCHTIME here yesterday there was a lot of brave, if clichéd, talk about there being a lot of golf still to be played, about its not being over yet, about golf being a funny game. At that stage the United States led Europe in the Solheim Cup by 3-1, and a rout was in prospect. After the afternoon session, though, that had been averted, Europe won the four-ball series 2-1, and although overall they are two points behind at 3-5, all the aforementioned clichés have real meaning to them again. As the Ryder Cup men proved in the US last year, two wins can be more than made up in 12 matches, let alone the 20 still to come here. St Pierre is a two-tier course, with holes 3 to 6 only achieved by rapping up and slipping on the crumpons. Once up there, though, there is a natural amphitheatre offering a view of the 5th and 6th greens, and early in the afternoon this heavily populated Kop was unacceptably quiet. Perhaps it had been stunned into silence by the events of the morning, but even when the first match through the 6th was won for Europe by a Trish Johnson birdie there was not much reaction. Next up was Kathryn Marshall, who was greeted with a couple of half-hearted "Come on Europe!" and she promptly urged them on, asking for more. But the crowd needed something real to get excited about, and immediately Marshall's partner Annika Sorenstam provided it. In went a 20-foot putt for a birdie, to move the pair to two

hours, the final fourball reached the last green. A win for Europe looked likely after two great shots from Alison Nicholas, but Beth Daniel, in the trees and out with her second shot, holed from 15 feet for a very unlikely and rather unfair half. The initial stages of the morning foursomes had looked distinctly promising as Sorenstam and Nilsson quickly went three up on Robbins and Michelle McGinn. They had teed off in a grey gloom of a morning, albeit in front of a stand three-quarters full of people at 7.45am. Robbins had the first shot and, looking taut, hit a quick hook 40 yards left of the centre of the fairway. She glanced at the heavens, as if to say "I knew I'd do that". Daniel went on to miss the green with her third shot and then miss from six feet, so that the Americans were immediately one down. They continued to play poorly, taking 40 - five over par - to the turn and were deservedly three down. At this stage Europe were leading in three matches, down only in one, but there was some unravelling to come. Not only did Robbins and McGinn see their lead evaporate, they produced four birdies on the back nine, including one at the last. Nilsson had holed from seven feet for their birdie, leaving Robbins with one from four feet for the halved match. As she stood to it, there was a noise in the crowd, she stood away and then, bravely, knocked it in. The Swedes had played the back nine in 37, but worse was to come. Davies and Nicholas, down all the way from the 5th, came back in 38 to lose for the first time in foursomes, then Marie-Laure de Lorenzi and Dale Reid, level at the turn, contrived to take 41 for the homeward half and still only lose by one hole, Daniel and Vicki Stenlund, having lost 2 and 1 and having bogeyed five of the next seven holes. The Americans were one over par for their last eight holes and went from two down to two up, an ignominious collapse by the Swedes.



Exemplary short game... Laura Davies chips to the green during her 6 and 5 win with Trish Johnson

Sherry hits out at 'joke' course

Patrick Glenn at Loch Lomond

ON A day when the wind howled and the flags seemed to go into hiding, several players voiced their deep displeasure at the set-up of the course here. Most notable of the critics was the resident professional Gordon Sherry, who shot a four-over-par 75 in yesterday's second round. "The pin placements were a joke," he said. "Loch Lomond is a stern enough test without making it stupid. It's an American-style course, surely it's meant for target golf, you don't need to flex up the greens. The rough has been grown, too, and you've no shot if you're off the fairway. They didn't need to change it; this is not the real Loch Lomond." He was joined in his condemnation by one of his playing partners, Peter O'Malley of Australia (78), and by New Zealand's Frank Nobilo (79). O'Malley went so far as to suggest that "somebody on the four should be sacked". Sherry's outburst was endorsed by the high scoring the cut was made at 151, nine over, and only seven of the 120-strong field broke par for the day. Still, the conditions seemed not to matter to Jean Van de Velde, the Frenchman, who shot a course-record 65, or Thomas Bjorn, the little-known Dane who took the halfway lead with a 69 for a three-under 139. Van de Velde attributed his performance to a putting tip he had picked up from a caddy. "She is a 15-handicapper and plays about three times a year," he said. "But she is a genius of a putter, never misses." Van de Velde not only had seven birdies, with one bogey, but needed only 11 putts on the back nine, which he covered in 21, four under par. The Australian Robert Allenby also called the pin placements "stupid" after carding a 77 to join Van de Velde on two under par. "I've managed to get myself into contention with a 69 to be three off the pace, level with Colin Montgomerie who picked up three shots in the last five holes to finish level. Nick Faldo is two strokes off the lead after an uneventful 73.

First-day results

- (Europe names first) FOURSOMES A Sorenstam/C Nilsson beat K Robbins/M McGinn 1, Davies/A Nicholas lost to P Sheehan/R Jones 1 down M L De Lorenzi/D Reid lost to B Daniel/V Skinner 1 down H Alfredson/R Neumann lost to D Pepper/B Burton 2-1 Europe 4, United States 3; FOURSOMES L Davies/T Johnson beat K Robbins/P Bradley 6 and 5 A Sorenstam/K Marshall beat V Skinner/J Geddes 1 up L Neumann/C Nilsson lost to D Pepper/B King 1 down H Alfredson/A Nicholas halved with M Mallon/B Daniel Europe 2X United States 1X MATCH POSITION: Europe 3, United States 5

Soccer

Rioch No.2 to Houston

Martin Thorpe on a piece of role-reversal that spells a new snub for Manchester City. MANCHESTER City yesterday wiped another name off their shortlist for a manager when Bruce Rioch preferred to join Queens Park Rangers as No. 2 to his former assistant at Arsenal, Stewart Houston. Having already been snubbed by George Graham and Dave Bassett, the City chairman Francis Lee could be forgiven for considering yesterday's offer from Tommy Docherty to take over as a consultant working alongside a young coach. "It is a genuine offer," said The Doc. "All he has to do is call."

Stranger rings have happened. Rioch's acceptance of Houston's offer to reverse roles was a big surprise. Having just settled a £500,000 pay-off with Arsenal, maybe Rioch feels he can now afford to take a less stressful back seat and consider management offers as they arise. Having been snubbed by three managers, what did Manchester City do yesterday to appease their fans? They signed Eddie McGoldrick, the Arsenal winger who last merited a place in the Highbury first team a year ago - coincidentally coming on as a substitute against City. He arrives on a month's loan.



Rioch... assistant

The Hand of God fails to open doors at the Bridge

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

THE only thing a star hates more than being recognised is not being recognised. Or so they say. Just being snubbed is bad enough. Last Sunday the surreal world of Diego Maradona collided with the real world of Stamford Bridge, and here is the full, weird story. The Argentinian's host for his English trip, Fuma, bought him and his entourage four directors' box tickets for the Chelsea v Aston Villa game, costing £250 each. As the strict dress code demanded collar and tie, Fuma also handed out four Chelsea ties on the way to the game. But Maradona was in T-shirt and jeans and snubbed a suggestion that he stop and buy a proper shirt. He decided that his fame was enough to get him through the door. On arriving at Chelsea's main entrance, however, he was met by a young steward who was not so sure and asked him to wait while she fetched a superior. The Hand of God, by now besieged by fans, decided that this was not what happened in Diego's World, where all doors opened automatically. So he just walked in, heading for the first room he found, a VIP lounge, where he was immediately surrounded again. A combination of claustrophobia and a realisation that this was not the route to his seats caused Maradona to panic and flee to the nearby stairwell, where he crouched, still surrounded by fans, begging his entourage: "Get me out of here."

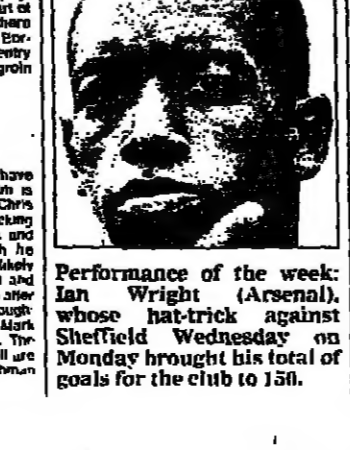
to keep fans out of bars or avoid a clash with another game, but to allow their Israeli friend Revivo time to start Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. COURSE, Dave Bassett is not the first man who lived to regret a promise made the night before. But who does Francis Lee turn to next? How about Gary Peters, the Brenton manager. Then Manchester City could have Peters and Lee - the blind leading the... DAVE SMITH wanted to show his loyalty to Rangers. So he had a £48 tattoo of Ally McColist drawn on his leg. With the player's name written underneath. Unfortunately spelling is not Dave's strong point. So now he has "Ally McColist" written on his right thigh. A 200 expert has told London's Evening Standard that Vinnie Jones was wrong to call Gary Lineker a jellyfish. Because jellyfish are "very popular - and they don't die". However, if Lineker's motive for his outburst was to stir up self-publicising controversy, Jones's jibe was spot on, because jellyfish too are sea-through. But Jones is not the only person Lineker has stung. Steve Rider is understood to be quitting the BBC to host ITV's new Formula One coverage after being relegated below Lineker in the presenters' hierarchy.

TEAM SHEET

- Aston Villa v Manchester Utd Andy Cole who scored a midweek hat-trick for the reserves, is close to his first start of the season for the first team. Steve Bruce has recovered from atmospheric injury to take his place in the starting line-up. Nicky Butt, who has strained a calf muscle, in midfield. Villa may be unchanged. Blackburn v Everton Blackburn's problems have been exacerbated by injury to the right side of their team. Though George Dowds (bruised ribs) and Hermann Berg (dead leg) may both be fit in time, Everton are seeking their place back in the top flight. Leeds v Newcastle Leeds' Graham is likely to have Mark Hetherington and Carlton Palmer available again after ankle injuries. Vobotski, Deane, Dorrity, Dorey and Pombrier are all still out. Newcastle hope their striker Lee Forde will have recovered after missing off with a hamstring injury against Blackpool last week. Liverpool v Chelsea After leading the same starting line-up in their seven games this season, Liverpool may be ready to make a change. Patrik Berger who has scored two goals in each of his last two games, could replace Stan Collyers. Chelsea could replace Leighton and Quinlan with, both rested for the Coca-Cola Cup, in at Blackpool, and introduce Fred Grimes. Norwegian international loanee Lillestrom at substitute goalkeeper. Middlesbrough v Arsenal The 7-0 romp over Hereford in the Coca-Cola Cup took more out of Middlesbrough than seemed possible at the time. Forwards Johnson, Curtis Fleming and Phil Wainman all suffered minor injuries and Alex Innes, who has scored two goals in each of his last two games, could replace Stan Collyers. Arsenal may recall Tony Adams, who scored in their recovery from last week's injury in a midweek replay.

A N Other

FOR the best part of an 18-year career spent in front of the game's most famous human hill, this skilful, quick-witted attacker was never booked, and when the record ended it was more a result of bad judgment by the referee than any misconduct on the player's part. He was one of the first wingers to be withdrawn behind the front runners, a role he filled with distinction before finishing, briefly, as a more some wobbled feet in Wales. Last week: Trevor Brooking (West Ham United).



Performance of the week: Ian Wright (Arsenal), whose hat-trick against Sheffield Wednesday on Monday brought his total of goals for the club to 151.

Scottish preview

Rangers determined to stay focused at Kilmarnock. DISTRACTIONS can be a dangerous thing in football and Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, will be only too anxious to concentrate on the business in hand at Kilmarnock today. The Dux side face a week which involves a Champions League showdown with Auxerre on Wednesday and the first confrontation of the season with Celtic next Saturday. Such a prospect can deflect attention from the first hurdle and make a daunting blunder a real possibility. Smith is determined that his players should preserve their two-point lead over Celtic in the Premier Division before meeting their most serious rivals. "It's important that we don't take our eye off the ball at Kilmarnock to look at Europe and Celtic," he said. "It's easily done, but they have to maintain concentration and keep up the good run of results at home." Rangers have won all eight of their domestic games in the

Argentina's Caniggia free for the taking

CLAUDIO CANIGGIA, the Argentine international striker, wants to play in England and has been offered to four Premiership clubs, writes Martin Thorpe. The former Roma and Benfica player is out of contract so is available without a fee, though he will demand wages comparable with other foreign Premiership stars. The four clubs comprise two from London and two in the north but do not include Arsenal, with whom the 29-year-old was previously linked. Caniggia was once banned for 13 months after testing positive for cocaine, but his representative in England, the sports lawyer Mel Goldberg, said yesterday: "He did have some personal problems but all that is behind him. He is a big crowd pleaser and would be a tremendous asset to a club. Colchester midfielder Mark Kinsella for an undisclosed six-figure fee. Southampton are planning a £10 million share issue to raise funds for new players.

July 1996

Cricket

Championship: Leicestershire v Middlesex

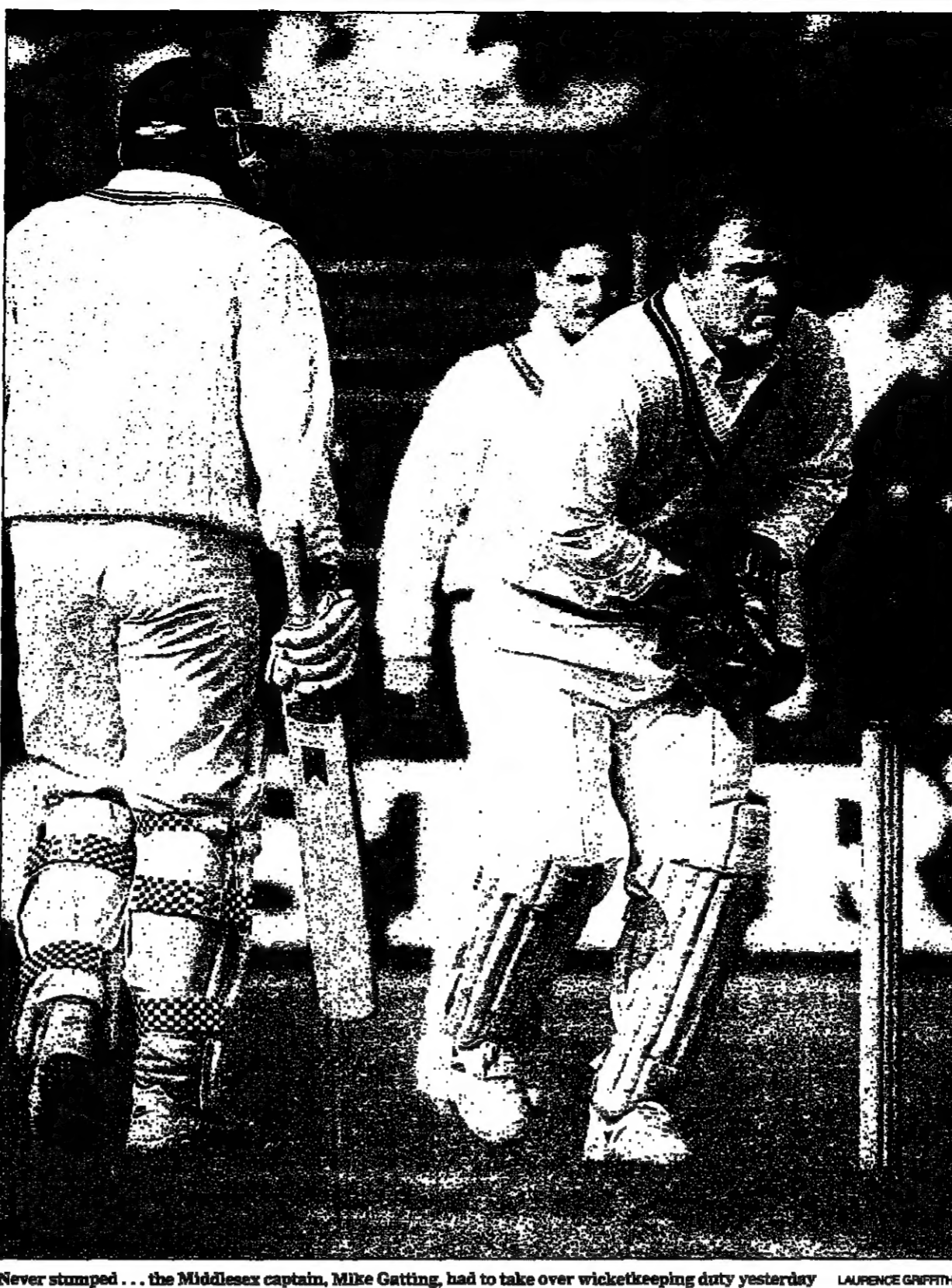
Simmons claims a title bonus

Mike Selvey at Grace Road

LEICESTERSHIRE continued their drive towards the County Championship yesterday. Phil Simmons took them past 350, thumping a square cut to the boundary bang on 5pm to claim maximum bonus points. A draw, with the three points it brings, would be enough now to give them the title should the game last until tomorrow evening.

Indeed Leicestershire have probably done enough already to ensure that things will be sewn up long before then. When bat light halted play at 5.30pm they had reached 381 for eight, a first-innings lead of 191. Middlesex, outplayed and looking weary, do not seem in the mood to offer a deal of resistance. But on a day of rising Leicester euphoria their coach, Jack Birkenshaw, strongly criticised the defensive leg-side tactics employed by Phil Tufnell and sanctioned by Mike Gatting, the Middlesex captain.

Birkenshaw was unequivocal. "For an England bowler to use that tactic on the second day spoils the game," he said. Lord's also had its say with Tim Lamb, who takes over as chief executive on November 1, insisting that the game's international and domestic governing bodies must clamp down. "The TCCB and ICC feel the issue of bowling down the leg side has to be addressed," he said yesterday. "As the laws stand it is legitimate but it is not edifying." They will undoubtedly set up a working party to look into the matter. Lamb had already been alerted by a phone call from Grace Road, seeking clarification on one of those anomalies that tend to arise in a game of such complexity. This one involved the Middlesex wicketkeeper Keith Brown, who having missed the first session because of a soreness to the finger he displaced on the first day - Gatting tested the stitching on his trousers by deputising - took up his stance to Tufnell on the leg side of the batsman. Did that, Simmons wondered, constitute a third fielder behind square on the leg side, contrary to the laws? Lamb consulted the former Test umpire Nigel Plews, whose ruling was that the keeper does not constitute a fielder as such and, provided he was in a position to be the first person to intercept the ball should the batsman miss it, everything was as it should be.



Never stumped... the Middlesex captain, Mike Gatting, had to take over wicketkeeping duty yesterday LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Surrey v Worcestershire

Mournful autumn of discontent

David Hopps at The Oval

IT MIGHT be one of the closest championship finishes in years but, as grey clouds enveloped the capital for the second successive day, Surrey's challenge could hardly have seemed more futile. This is a game suffering from SAD.

A triumph of optimism over logic. It begins in mid-April, with the hedges barely in leaf and hands numb by cold, and oversteps its welcome deep into September. A summer's aspirations - representative of the endless cat-and-mouse game of county cricket on a sunlit September afternoon, but all too often the championship meanders to a halt in shadowy,

astigmatic light. This stubborn attempt to disregard the inevitable onset of autumn seems the very stuff of English eccentricity. It was hunches before the square had dried out sufficiently, which did little for the reputation of a mooching ground staff. The Oval was a cavernous shell of unpatronised beer stalls and second-hand book stands. A smattering of spectators, wrapped in winter coats, sat many yards apart, enclosed in their wintery private thoughts. Chris Lewis, who cried off with influenza, was right to stay in bed.

There was brief exhilaration when Worcestershire collapsed to 32 for three against a purposeful seam attack to bring Surrey their first bowling bonus point after an hour's play. But Tom Moody, with a sturmeous to capture the ambience, restored the home supporters' melancholy with an unbeaten 60 from 89 balls. After almost three hours' play, the light predictably closed in.

Gloucestershire v Kent

Unhappy Kent condemned to fighting a phoney war

Paul Weaver at Bristol

KENT are provisionally second in the table this morning, two points ahead of Surrey, having taken a maximum four bowling points against Gloucestershire here yesterday. But they did not look ecstatic about it; this was a desultory, hands-in-pockets sort of day.

Their noble bid to turn the table upside-down and finish having been bottom last year, ended in mid-afternoon with the news that Gloucestershire had secured a second batting point. Before the weekend is through Kent may also have lost the runners-up prize money of £15,000. They may well lose this match, having conceded a first-innings lead of 87 runs. At the close, after a fiery burst from Courtney Walsh and Mike Smith, they were 21 for one in their second innings, still 66 behind. Daryl Foster, Kent's Australian coach, presented a watery smile and did his best to look philosophical, although in truth he must have felt like giving Lady Luck a sharp kick on the shin.

Rugby Union

Carling thinking of England

Robert Armstrong

WILL CARLING will use Harlequins' League One match at Bristol today as a springboard from which to relaunch his England career into a remarkable 10th season of Test rugby. The former England skipper, who has helped propel Quins to the top of the Courage League with a 100 per cent record, looks certain to be included over the weekend in a revised national squad for next Wednesday's scheduled training session at Bisham Abbey.

really counts out there on the field - his case for inclusion in the squad as a centre is hard to resist," said the source. Irrespective of who gets the England captaincy - the forwards Jason Leonard, Lawrence Dallaglio and Ben Clarke have all been touted - Carling would serve as a positive playing influence in a squad that has been coolly manipulated for dubious political motives in recent weeks. Having won 66 caps (59 as captain) and led England to three Grand Slams, Carling continues to enjoy the kind of cult status among supporters that would act as a timely corrective to widespread public dismay at the squad's inactivity. No doubt, Carling's proven track record as a winner - he has shared in 47 England victories - also commands respect from the coaching staff who feel that the loss of quality training time puts England at a disadvantage in the busy autumn programme of internationals that has been lined up. Matches against Italy (November 23), the New Zealand Barbarians (November 30) and Argentina (December 14) are now likely to be supplemented by a hastily arranged test against Australia on November 20 or 16.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes entries for Derbyshire v Durham, Leicestershire v Middlesex, and Gloucestershire v Kent.

DERBYSHIRE v DURHAM

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like C. Adams, J. Lister, and J. Lister.

LEICESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like P. Simmons, M. Gatting, and K. Brown.

GLoucestershire v Kent

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes names like T. Moody, C. Lewis, and D. Foster.

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GLoucestershire v Kent

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Sport in brief

Chess

Another 2½-1½ win, this time against Romania, kept England in third place with an unbeaten record at the 127-nation Olympiad in Ervan, writes Leonard Barden.

Badminton

Park Jo-Bong, widely regarded as the greatest doubles player of all time, has agreed in principle to come to England to live and coach next year, writes Richard Jago.

Darts

The oldest and best-known tournament in the British game, the News of the World Open, is returning after a six-year absence. Maximum 180s are rare in this competition, open to every player in the country, as the throw is traditionally from 8ft and not the professionals' distance of 7ft 9½in.

Boxing

Birmingham's Robert McCracken has lost his chance of adding the WBO world middleweight championship to his Commonwealth title because his manager Mickey Duff cannot agree terms with the champion, Lonnie Bradley of the United States. McCracken, unbeaten in 27 fights, now meets Fitzgerald Bruney of Canada in a Commonwealth rematch at the Asotua Villa Leisure Centre on October 1.

Tennis

The unseeded Kimberly Po continued her demolition of

Unsung pair call the tune

ANY expressions of surprise over the selection of Ashley Giles and Michael Vaughan for the England A tour to Australia must be retracted now. Giles, a slow left-arm spinner who has blossomed as a batsman this season, struck a sparkling maiden first-class century yesterday in 133 balls and finished on 106 not out.



Scientists now know that walking helps protect you against some cancers. And takes them a few steps closer to finding a cure. One day. To do just that, National Walk Week starts on Sunday 29th September and lasts until Sunday 6th October. All you need is a pair of legs. To find out where your nearest organised walk is, call the number below. To organise your own, fill in the coupon. In the end, your sore and tired feet could stop the pain of someone with cancer.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone No, Age, Area of Interest. Includes a 'FREE PAGES' logo and '0800 192 192' number.

Cricket

Table with 2 columns: Counties, Update. Lists various counties and their current status in the championship.

Derbyshire

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Lists Derbyshire players and their performance.

Leicestershire

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs/Wickets. Lists Leicestershire players and their performance.

Gloucestershire

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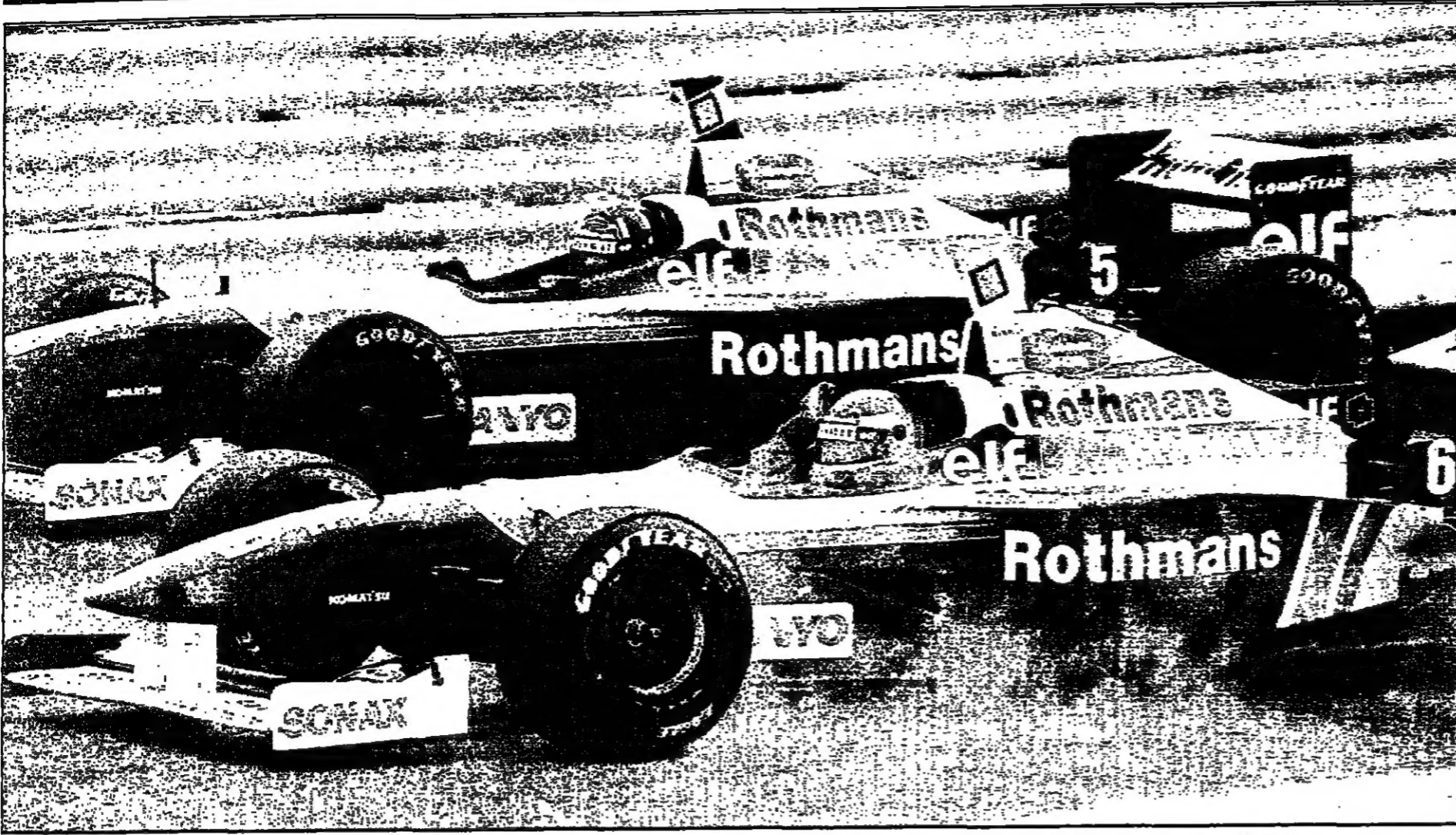


Ferrari's giant leap Bright future for Prancing Horse 20



Solheim Cup Davies leads Europe to a late recovery 22

BRITISH ACE IS JUST ONE GOOD RACE AWAY FROM FORMULA ONE TITLE



Shape of things to come... the two Williams cars joust in practice yesterday as Villeneuve (foreground) brakes hard in attempting to overtake Hill on the inside

Day for disillusion or glory

Richard Williams reports from Estoril on Damon Hill's date with destiny and a world championship in tomorrow's Portuguese GP

FOR Damon Hill life is never simple. even when it seems most straightforward. He will win the Formula One world championship if he finishes ahead of Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams team-mate, in the Portuguese Grand Prix here tomorrow. But if the French-Canadian wins the race, or finishes second with Hill in fifth or sixth place, the battle will continue into the season's final round, in Japan in three weeks' time.

though he was maintaining an even temper yesterday in the face of endless questioning. All requests for the latest information on his contractual negotiations were firmly refused. "I'm not disclosing what my plans are," he said. "I've had a lot of discussions and phone calls. In time there will be some news. But I'm here to do a job of work."

acher, the world champion's 21-year-old brother, who was introduced to the press yesterday. For Eddie Jordan, Hill's proven competence as a test driver would make him the ideal complement to the German novice, who is said to lack none of his elder brother's self-confidence. Hill's final realistic option, that of joining the new Stewart-Ford team, is not favoured by Ecclestone since it would not satisfy the requirement of putting him up among the front runners in the team's first season, however satisfying it might be to help Jackie Stewart get his project off the ground. So Jordan it will be, so long as Hill wins the title.

lusionment may seem the most appealing option of all. He ended yesterday's practice session with the second-fastest time, almost three quarters of a second behind Michael Schumacher, who is finishing the season with a terrific flourish after a year of hard graft and will be hoping to become the first Ferrari driver to win three grands prix in a row since Alain Prost's victories in the Mexican, French and British races six years ago. Villeneuve was half a second further back, behind Ukyo Katayama's Tyrrell-Ford and Irvine in the second Ferrari, although Friday times cannot be taken as a serious reflection of performance since each team are working on race set-ups rather than trying for ultimate speed. Schumacher warned that although he might be able to repeat the performance in today's qualifying session, the car is unlikely to perform so effectively during the race. But if he takes pole position and gets a good start in the race he will be hard to displace on a winding 2.7-mile circuit which offers only limited opportunities for overtaking. Hill is at home here. "I love it here," he said. "It's one of the more dangerous circuits we go to. There are several corners which are very fast and don't have any run-off areas, but I always enjoy driv-

ing here. It's quite bumpy, which makes it more difficult, but I like that aspect of it. A lot of the circuits are the smooth, billiard-table type where you don't get the same sensation of car control and speed." Yesterday he experimented with the race set-up, but tomorrow it will be just as vital to establish in his mind a balance between the aggression needed to fight Villeneuve and the prudence required to produce a title-winning result, which may involve settling for a place behind his team-mate. "I've always taken the approach that I aim to win races," he said. "It'll be a very exciting race. You'll see both Jacques and myself, and anyone else who feels he can win the race, driving to their absolute maximum. But I'll certainly be

carrying all the permutations in my head." For Villeneuve there are no permutations to clutter his thinking. "I need four points more than Damon this weekend just to have a chance," he said. "It's going to be a tough battle, and I hope we can fight right up to the last lap of the last race." Schumacher, who hopes to watch them fight it out in his rear-view mirrors, was asked which of the two he would like to see taking the championship. "Like," he said with a smile, "is the wrong word." He will get his title back, Schumacher's thoughts are of the future. But for the man he has thwarted for the past two years, nothing much matters beyond tomorrow's afternoon. Schumacher speaks, page 20

Hughes the biter bit from behind



David Lacey

THERE was much fuss at Stamford Bridge last Sunday about tackles from behind. It stemmed from the number of times that Chelsea's Mark Hughes appeared to be fouled by Aston Villa's Ugo Ehiogu without a free-kick being given. With Hughes things are not always what they seem. Strength in possession is among his prime assets. He is not easily knocked off the ball, let alone knocked to the ground. So when Hughes, with increasing frequency, was left by Ehiogu in a sitting position, arms raised at the injustice of it all, it was tempting to conclude that the Aston Villa centre-back was having rather a good game. The referee, Jeff Winter, seemed to agree. For the most part he ignored Hughes's appeals. Needless to say this made the home supporters very angry, as angry, in fact, as they used to be when Hughes, playing for Manchester United, was winning free-kicks against Chelsea. Winter's strange decision to penalise Gianluca Vialli for doing nothing more than screen the ball against Ehiogu with rather more success than Hughes enjoyed did not improve the crowd's mood. Nevertheless the Villa player emerged from the match with credit, having shown that there is at least one English defender able to get tight on opponents without conceding free-kicks. Frank Leboeuf, however, took a different view. In the short time that he has been playing Premiership football for Chelsea, Leboeuf, a sweeper in the best French tradition of Marius Tresor and Laurent Blanc, has reminded the English game of the half-forgotten art of fending with the brain. His

positional sense alone recalls Bobby Moore. So he needed to be listened to when he complained about tackles from behind going unpunished. "They are dangerous," he said. "They could break someone's legs. The rules are the same all over the world now; it is forbidden to tackle in that way. Well, it may be in theory but again English football is going its own sweet way in the matter of interpretation. What if the attacker is backing into a defender, as Hughes was often doing against Ehiogu on Sunday? This was where Leboeuf's argument, though correct in the general sense, fell down on specifics. Even so, the principle of tackling from behind needs to join the charge on the goalkeeper in the museum of ancient football customs. Given the speed of the modern game, it exposes the victim to serious leg, ankle and Achilles tendon injuries. Diego Maradona was hacked down from behind so often that in the end he took to wearing shinpads fore and aft. Tackling from behind has never been unique to British football, only the egalitarianism with which, even now, it continues to be accepted. With more foreign players being attracted to the Premiership, that acceptance must surely be living on borrowed time. Once again the European competitions are exposing the frailties of English defences. Forbid tackling from behind altogether and the only park available to any budding Steve Boultis would be Jurassic. But England might eventually produce better centre-backs.

MARK HUGHES, of course, has always been able to look after himself. Leboeuf's pious on the Welshman's behalf were eloquent but Hughes has not always enjoyed French support. Six seasons ago Manchester United met Montpellier at Old Trafford in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup and were held to 1-1 in a game dominated by the libero skills of Blanc. Pascal Bailla, a Montpellier defender, was sent off after apparently flooring Hughes, although television suggested that contact had been minimal. Or as Leboeuf might have said, une grande illusion.

Alasdair Fotheringham on the sensational end to Big Mig's Tour of Spain Indurain abandons in mid-race

THE much heralded return of the Tour de France hero Miguel Indurain to the Tour of Spain turned sour on yesterday's 13th stage. After a five-year absence from the Vuelta, Indurain opted for cycling's equivalent of an early shower rather than take on the most important climb of the event, the nine-mile ascent to the Covadonga lakes. The organisers had long begged his sponsor for the return of the man who dominated stage racing for the first half of the Nineties but ignored his home race for five years to concentrate on winning the Tour de France.

His debut as a fully fledged Tour de France champion brought enormous expectation in Spain and equally enormous relief to the race organisers. Last year an enforced change in race dates from April to September had seen public interest wane and journalists outnumber fans on some mountain-top finishes. But now, with Indurain in the race, the public flocked back to the roadsides, a record number of reporters were accredited, and Spanish television moved coverage from the minority channel TVE 3 to the popular TVE 1. La primera's normal schmaltzy South American soap operas designed to en-

liven siesta time were mercilessly cut, but with Indurain riding nobody complained. However, the five-times Tour de France winner decided he had had enough. Having been virtually forced to participate by his sponsor, he slid out of the back of a leading group on the penultimate climb of the day. After descending the mountain at his own speed he rode slowly along the race route to the team hotel at the foot of the Covadonga climb and disappeared inside. It was the first time he had abandoned a major stage race in more than six years. "It's sad to see a great

champion struggle like that," said his former team-mate Pedro Delgado. Indurain had already admitted he lacked the necessary motivation, and the warning bells began to sound on Tuesday when he failed to perform well in a 30-mile time-trial, traditionally his forte. When he last a minute to the race leader Alex Zülle in 1.3 miles climbing on Thursday the rumours started that he might abandon. It is now touch-and-go whether he will continue riding next year. Laurent Jalabert took the 106-mile stage and his ONCE team-mate Zülle retained the overall lead.

Quiz Answers

- 1. Superman, who will marry Lois Lane in Metropolis on October 9 (life-threatening events permitting). 2. Anne Ford, whose aggressive interviewing of Kenneth Clarke prompted complaints from Conservative Central Office. 3. Liz 'Lips' Hurley. 4. The Right Rev Roddy Wright, aka the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, aka Bishop Starkey. 5. [c] Peter Kerry, the 18-year-old paperboy with wanderlust. 6. Astronaut Shannon Lucid, who caught the Shuttle after a six-month delay. 7. British Airways' new equiglobe logo cost £80 million. 8. The European Standard Personal Odour Unit [it is short for olfactory]. The EU is spending £300,000 researching how much British offices smell. 9. [a] The Majors. 10. The police - the 43 chief constables of England and Wales urged the Home Secretary to scrap the Rosharing laws. 11. The Bisto Keds, derailed after 80 years because the company wants to give gravy a younger image. 12. [a] Venko Jones, who responded by calling his accuser, Gary Lineker, a jellyfish. 13. Proficiency in PFL. The new badge was introduced this week by the Scouts in an attempt to drag the movement into the 20th century. 14. South Africa was pronounced dead by Kim Howells, while Scientology made its TV debut. 15. [d] Eric Cantona. How you rate: 0-4 Five Hall Marys 5-9 Three Our Fathers 10-14 Extra water 15: Simple divine

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,764

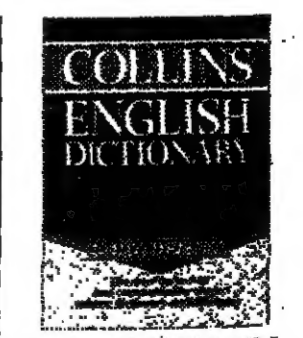
A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,764, PO Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday September 30.

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Collins English Dictionary crossword grid with numbers 1-26.

- 10. The police - the 43 chief constables of England and Wales urged the Home Secretary to scrap the Rosharing laws. 11. The Bisto Keds, derailed after 80 years because the company wants to give gravy a younger image. 12. [a] Venko Jones, who responded by calling his accuser, Gary Lineker, a jellyfish. 13. Proficiency in PFL. The new badge was introduced this week by the Scouts in an attempt to drag the movement into the 20th century. 14. South Africa was pronounced dead by Kim Howells, while Scientology made its TV debut. 15. [d] Eric Cantona. How you rate: 0-4 Five Hall Marys 5-9 Three Our Fathers 10-14 Extra water 15: Simple divine

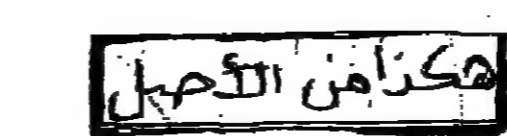


- 12 I know what'll happen if all one runs on (11) 13 Bewilder knight discovered embracing spy chief (9) 15 Porcelain encourages infamia (8) 17 It's Frank, a brother for nothing! (7) 19 A home in Heaven! Pardon? (7) 20 Loose rock on North partition (6) 22 A pound a whopper! (4)

Crossword solution grid with numbers 1-26.

The Catholic Church's problem in this area is that most of its potential recruits to the priesthood are virgins, many of whom assume, with the apocalyptic lack of confidence of adolescents, that they will remain virgins for ever, so that they are not actually giving anything up. Yet, ordained and older, they suddenly discover themselves unexpectedly attractive to women. Mark Lawson's brush with the cloth

The Week cover story



Inside